

you, but it playing no role in my life isn't trust.

If I asked you what were the five best stocks to invest my money in, I'd live out trust by investing my money in the five stocks you recommended. That's trust.

Don't ask me the five best stock to invest in, because I don't have the expertise or insight; trust me. Ask Jesus if that is your question, and listen, be open, be expectant, because you know he will answer you.

The answer might be BHP, Westpac, Western Mining, CBA, Newcrest

mining. Or the answer might be a question; why do you want to invest? But Jesus will answer.

When I look to the one on the cross, he will always answer. He will always be true to himself. When I trust in him, I find life. For that is where life is to be found in that relationship of trust. That relationship of trust Jesus has created for us to live in, through his being raised on the cross. I look to him for life.

By the way, what's the Spirit been saying to you this week? What vision, what dream has the Spirit placed on your heart this week?

Look to Jesus, the one lifted up on the cross, and walk into fullness of life with him; walking and talking together about everything.

11 March 2018  
**WHO DO YOU TRUST?**  
John 3:14-21



I find it interesting that the context of John 3:16 is Jesus pointing to Moses lifting up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness as the example of what he was going to do.

The Children of Israel are once again found to be complaining. It's all taking too long so they whinge; "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?" (Numbers 21:5) Actually this isn't the first time you find these words on their lips. They complain about being brought into the wilderness, but they don't seem to remember each time how the Lord saved them. How he did the impossible.

Remember there are well in excess of a million people,

without a supermarket in sight, and they are fed daily. You'd think that would be mind-blowing enough to grow their trust in the Lord. But soon the familiar ceases to be amazing, and they complain.

You might be surprised to know I've been known to complain. And like the Children of Israel, I don't really have anything to complain about; more than enough food, a great home, water, friends, the list goes on and on. But I too am tempted to complain when the familiar ceases to be amazing.

The Lord sent poisonous snakes; then they really had something to complain about. They ask Moses to pray for

them and God gives what might be an unusual answer. He doesn't get rid of the snakes. He does what at first glance I'd consider bazar.

I'd want to get rid of the snakes, or at least have antivenin on hand. But the Lord gets Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole.

I wonder how that would have gone down in our science laboratories. Here's the latest cure for snake bit; a bronze image on a pole.

If someone said that all you had to do when bitten by a tiger snake was look at an image of the snake on a pole in the main square, what would you think of them?

But what happened to everyone who took

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## **Christ Church Lutheran**

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

God at his word and looked at the bronze snake? They were healed, and for no good scientific reason, but they were healed.

Jesus equates himself to that snake, not the one in the garden that deceived Adam and Eve. Jesus equates himself to the bronze snake that was lifted up, so all who look to him would live and not die.

Actually there is more to living than not dying!

That's why Nicodemus had come to Jesus, he was seeking life. Life is so much more than mere existence; that could prove to be totally hellish. Nicodemus recognised something about Jesus so he comes to him looking for life.

And he too got an answer that at first didn't make sense to

him. Just like the bronze snake on the pole. How can looking at a bronze snake on a pole stop toxic venom from killing you? There is no logical explanation; something else is at work, or someone else.

Jesus had told

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How do you create trust?

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Nicodemus that he needed to be 'Born Again'. Born of the Spirit, which left Nicodemus floundering. He wanted life, but it seemed out of his grasp, it didn't seem to make sense. And left to ourselves it doesn't make any sense because physically you can't be born again. Which I'm sure all mothers are relieved about; once per child I'm sure is more than enough!

Jesus seeks to birth trust, Jesus seeks to birth faith in us. That's what died in the garden. Adam and Eve lost trust in their Father, and so they died. More than a physical death, their identity died, their sense of worth died, their reason for being died, their relationships of love died.

How would you go about recreating trust once it has been destroyed?

You can't just pretend it didn't happen, because it did. Sweeping things under the carpet doesn't resolve anything. It just makes for more obstacles to trip over in your relationship, in your view of yourself.

It took people taking the Lord at his word to go and look at that snake. And they were healed, for there was more than a snake on a pole, there was

a visible sign of God's promise to his people. The Lord has promised that whoever looked at the snake would be healed. What the Lord presents is an opportunity to trust him, to take him at his word, whether it makes sense or not. The Lord is saying; 'trust me'.

And all who did lived!

Jesus is lifted up on the cross, claiming that this is how he is going to heal us, that this is how he's going to open the way into God's heart. Jesus is lifted up on the cross so that all who believe, that means trust him, will not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus presents us with an opportunity to trust him, to take him at his word, whether it makes sense or not. Jesus is saying; 'trust me'.

And the devil is still saying; 'you can't, you've got to earn your way. You're too bad to be liked by God. God, who needs him, do it yourself'. The devil is still tempting us to take on the image of a rebel. The devil is still inviting us to trust ourselves, for if we look inside ourselves

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Jesus presents us with an opportunity to trust him.

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we'll find all the answers we need. 'Trust yourself, you're not a bad person'. 'Trust yourself and do what you feel like doing'. The devil is still spinning his deadly toxin. That old serpent is still putting the bit on people, and left to ourselves it is deadly.

The solution is to take Jesus at his word and trust him. Trust him, buy looking to the one on the cross. That means taking Jesus

at his word; looking to the one of the cross and not looking elsewhere for life's solutions.

How do I spend my money? How do I work out my priorities in life? Look to the one on the cross, trust him with your choices. Trust him with your decision.

Jesus isn't dead, just leaving you with a list to fulfil, you can ask him direct and trust that he'll answer.

The answer might be a strong conviction that grows over time, or it might be a thought that pops into your mind, or you might notice something in the created world which shows you Jesus intention.

Jesus has come to create faith in us; that is trust in him. I trust someone when I actually do what they say. Saying I trust you, but never doing what you say isn't trust. Saying I trust