

Thank God, when I'm drawn to Jesus on the cross, he frees me, he heals me, he creates me, I discover my identity in him. Jesus on the cross draws me into a very real, personal, conversational relationship. Jesus on the cross draws me into living Father's dream together with him.

What dreams and visions has the Spirit placed on your heart?

Jesus, on the cross, has drawn us into his dream, of life lived loved by Father. Here, where I meet the real Jesus on the cross, I also meet the real me. I nail all the lies and false illusions to the cross and am liberated for an amazing life with

the real person. The real person, Jesus, and the real me.

Today Jesus draws you to the cross so that you grow to be all that he has dreamed possible. Today Jesus invites you to be open to the dreams and visions he will place on your heart that you live out this most amazing relationship, this naturally, supernatural love. For Jesus' dream is that you live in this loving relationship, just as he does; Father's child, whom he loves and delights in.

Today I invite you to spend time alone

with Jesus, seeking to meet him, to talk with him, to dream with him. I invite you to focus on the cross and let Jesus draw you to himself, that you share life together in this wonderfully, naturally, supernatural love that flows from the heavenly Father, through his Son, on the cross, into your heart. Today seek to meet Jesus; sharing heart to heart with him, listening for his voice, his prompt, his dream for you this week.

Today seek to meet Jesus.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

18 March 2018

DO YOU WANT TO MEET JESUS?

John 12:20-33



Our Gospel began with some Greeks wanting to meet Jesus. It's not that they were Greeks but that they were not Israelites that is interesting. Greek stands for everyone who wasn't an Israelite. So you could substitute, there were some Aussies who wanted to meet Jesus.

Who'd want to meet Jesus? What do you recon would be the first thing you'd want to talk with him about?

Jesus invites these guys into his dream. He invites them to be part of his Father's dream. Jesus is inviting us, you and me to be part of their dream.

These Greeks wanted to see Jesus, so he shows them his

passion, the focus of his life's work. And I don't think it was what they were expecting.

Jesus reveals the cross to them; 'When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.' (John 12:32) Jesus wants to draw us in as well. Draw us in that we might know him, know him personally, intimately. For Jesus' dream is that all people might be saved; might be in an intimate, loving, affectionate relationship with his Father, just like he is.

And this relationship comes through the cross. That's where Jesus draws all people into this relationship.

I don't know why those Greeks wanted to meet Jesus.

Maybe they'd seen him do a miracle. Or like so many others they were after a healing of some kind. Or maybe they just wanted to see what all the excitement was about. They wanted to meet Jesus.

Who wants to meet Jesus?
I sure do.

And Jesus opens the door. Come on in, here I am, come and see my heart and soul on display for all the world to see. That's Jesus on the cross; revealing his heart and soul to us.

We catch a glimpse of Jesus heart and soul as we hear his conversation with Father; "Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour?' But

this is the very reason I came! Father, bring glory to your name.” (John 12:27,28)

Jesus invites us Aussies to come on in and be part of his wonderful relationship he shares with Father. But do you notice the way into this relationship isn't what you might have expected.

This is the ultimate love story, but there are no butterflies.

Here's a confession; I hope you can forgive me. I've been watching 'Married At First Sight'. My wife made me do it!

In that show they talk about love and having butterflies. They are after some sort of emotional ride to prove that they are in love. I think many people would see that as what to expect. But Jesus didn't have butterflies, he's

rejected, whipped, mocked and spat on, executed on a cross.

The cross was meant to be a form of torture where people suffered over a long period of time, till they eventually suffocated under the weight of their own bodies. It was meant to strike fear into

Do you want to meet Jesus?

people's hearts. It definitely humiliated the one being crucified.

Some Greeks, some Aussies wanted to meet Jesus. Was this what they were expecting?

Not a butterfly in sight. Well maybe a few on the Sunday, when he rose.

One the cross we get to see Jesus. We meet the real deal, not our imagining, but the real person.

Really there for you and me. Really pouring out his life so that we might have a life where we get to experience and live in the love God the Father and God the Son share.

Jesus dream is that we live in this supernatural love as if it is totally natural.

Where else would the Father's loved children be other than in his heart. For our heavenly Dad it's only natural for his

children to feel loved, to know they are love, to experience his love.

But if you're looking for the butterfly syndrome you're going to miss the real deal.

I don't know if the Greek guys got to meet Jesus, because they stand there for us. It is an open ended question inviting us to live out the answer. We are being invited to

answer this desire with our lives.

Have we meet Jesus, or have we missed him. The Greek guys wanted to meet Jesus, so he showed them the real guy behind all the hype. He didn't want them to live a lie.

We end up being part of a lie when we believe all the hype and miss the real person. Jesus has come and removed all the hype about God; both positive and negative, so that we see the real person. For we are being invited into a relationship of intimacy with a real person.

The Greeks weren't after a new teaching; which is what the Greeks were famous for, great philosophers. They wanted to me a living, breathing person. They wanted to meet Jesus, not the idea about Jesus. Not what Jesus

taught. They wanted to meet Jesus.

And Jesus opened the door. The cross is the open door. Jesus invites us in that we might meet the real deal. That we might live life with the real person. If you only have the teaching or an image to relate to, what do you really

The cross is the open door.

have?

Did you notice that the Father spoke in response to his Son and all heard? Why do you think that was?

I'm sure part of the reason was that Father wants us to enter into a real relationship with Jesus. An intimate, affectionate relationship of love, where we share heart to heart. Where we feel safe to share heart to heart. For

Jesus is the safest person in the world; not that he won't confront you, or challenge you, but that he always has your best interest at heart, even if it's going to break his.

That's part of what he lived out on the cross, wasn't it!

I don't reveal my sin to God to try and manipulate him, I do it because he's the safest person I know, and as we

share heart to heart, my heart is being set free. Jesus liberates me from the slavery to past mistakes and hurts. Jesus pronounces forgiveness; I'm not left to be the product of my pains, my regrets, my betrayals, my rage, my mistakes. What sort of person would I be if all these remained undealt with, remained to shame me? What sort of person would these twist me into?