

Faith is trusting Jesus with our life, with our living. Trusting him more than the storm. No storm rules Jesus, Jesus lives in his Father's power and authority. Jesus has the power and authority to do what he says. He is inviting you daily to trust him, to trust him above any storm.

Jesus wants to knock down that fence of our limited abilities so that we live in his wide open expanse of faith. That wide open expanse of trust; for what Jesus says he always does.

Jesus doesn't want the storms of life shaping you, controlling you, diminishing you. Jesus' goal is that

you live freely, openly, expansively in him as he shapes you, as he controls your responses, as he enlarges you.

Jesus invites you; 'Don't panic, talk with me, walk with me. I'll never abandon you.' My loving presence is always there, grab my hand and walk boldly, confidently into life, trusting me.'

So many things want to fence us in. For me none more than what I believe possible, when I look at life through my eyes, in my strength, in my authority. How

life shrinks when my standard for life is me and what I can do.

Today Jesus is inviting you to trust him. To look at life through his eyes, in his strength, in his authority. How life expands when my standard for life is Jesus and all he can do?

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

24 June 2018

LIVE LIFE OPENLY AND EXPANSIVELY

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

These words of Paul in this letter caught my attention; "Dear, dear Corinthians, I can't tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn't fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren't small, but you're living them in a small way... Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!" (2 Cor. 6:11-13)

I like the thought of living a wide-open, spacious life. So what might be fencing me in?

This morning we heard the story of David defeating the giant Goliath. In the story we find Saul fenced in. He's lived his life by the approval of others, and so has lost the

courage to take God at his word. Even worse, we're told that God took his spirit from Saul. So all Saul can see is a giant who will destroy him. Saul is paralysed with fear. What is fencing Saul in?

Then we have David. And what is David? We have Goliath, a skilled warrior; a huge man, with every reason to be confident. And what is David?

David comes in from watching the sheep. When he walks into camp, I'm sure nobody apart from his brothers even notices him. David's a boy with a few sticks and stones.

Now if I were a betting man, I would have put my money on Goliath, except for one thing. The

unseen reality. Here are David's words; "You come to me with sword, spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies..." (1 Samuel 17:45)

I find David incredibly confident, bold in his approach. Do you notice where this bold confidence comes from? David knows God, personally. David knows the LORD of Heaven's Armies and steps forward in God's power and authority.

At this point in time David has already been anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king of Israel. At which point in time we are told that the Spirit entered him. David knows in whom he trusts.

And David's trust has been honed through life. While Goliath was learning to kill, David was learning to be a 'Shepherd King'. So we heard these words from David; "I've been taking care of my father's sheep... When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth... The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" (2 Sam. 17:34-38)

What have you learnt of God through your life experience? Where have you experienced the strength and presence of God in your life?

God had shaped David through his everyday life experiences. How has God been training you?

I find it important to note that God was doing this training all the time David wasn't aware of what he was going to face. If you knew you were going to have to fight a giant would you prepare yourself by looking after sheep? I might have been tempted to learn how to use a sword, or

I wonder what God is training you for?

better still a bazooka. God trains David as he looks after his Dad's sheep.

I wonder what God is training you for; as you serve unnoticed, as you practice listening, as you do the dishes, as you make time to ring up your mother. I wonder what God is training you for as you walk through life with him.

David's confidence didn't come from knowing how to fight

with a sword and a shield; in fact he threw those things away in favour of five stones and a sling. What had God been training David to use? Sticks and stones. David's confidence was in the God he knew; the God of Heaven's Armies.

And David stepped out and lived openly and expansively. What giants are you facing? How has God been

preparing you? He's inviting you to trust in his power and authority and risk everything as the Spirit leads.

Goliath sneered in contempt at that ruddy-faced boy with his sticks and stones. Goliath's life was fenced in, limited buy himself and what he felt he could achieve. You might say it didn't go all that well for Goliath. What is trying to fence you in and rob you of the open, expansive life

Jesus has won for you; has birthed you into?

I invite you to take that situation, that person, that fear, that sense of hopelessness to Jesus. Invite him in. Invite him to speak and then boldly, confidently, step out and do what you hear the Spirit saying.

Jesus is inviting you to live in his strength and authority.

In the story we had read today from Jesus' life story we find the disciples living fenced in. They're in a storm.

Has anyone ever been in a storm? An economic storm, a personal storm, a health storm, a literal storm. I think storms have the ability to leave me feeling trapped. I'm at the mercy of the storm. Who thinks the disciples felt at the mercy of the storm?

Their boat is filling with water. Not ideal! I'd be panicking if the boat I was in was filling with water. I don't want to drown! When the disciples looked around all they could see and experience was the storm.

What storm is trying to fence you in at the

Has anyone ever been in a storm?

present?

What a contrast between Jesus and the disciples; they're in full panic mode and Jesus is sleeping. Till they are shouting at Jesus to join them in their panic.

Does Jesus panic?

Jesus does what they didn't think could be done. Jesus simply commands the storm to quiet down, and it does. Would that

have blown your mind?

And then Jesus asks that almost silly question. The disciple believed they were going to drown, of course they were scared. Wouldn't have you been scared? Jesus amazingly asks; 'Why are you afraid?'

'Why are you afraid?' Jesus don't you know the appropriate response to dying is fear! 'Why are you afraid?'

Where in your life might Jesus be asking you that question? Not because the storm isn't real; the storm was real. In their own strength the threat of death was very real. Where in your life might Jesus be asking you; 'Why are you afraid?'

Here Jesus widens his disciples scope on life as he invites them to trust him; that's what faith is.