

life with your lungs full of the Spirit, your heart full of Jesus love and grace, striding confidently as you seek to love Jesus serving those around you with your hands, that they too might see the heavenly Father's love and live embraced in his bear hug. That the fire of his love burns out the rubbish and leaves them healed and whole.

Does this mean in Father's love you'll never make a mistake? Of course not; but it does mean you have the security to admit your mistakes, not having them control you or shape you.

Wonderfully, in the security we have in Jesus we are able to admit our mistakes and learn from them, for they never define who we are.

You are not the sum total of your mistakes. You are not equal to your net worth. You are so, so much more; you are Father's loved child, in whom he delights. You are a citizen of heaven; part of the royal family. You are a heavenly woman, a heavenly man. You bring the flavour of your Father into everything you do, to everyone you meet, for you are his loved child.

Let us pray.  
Jesus daily let me see myself through

your eyes. Jesus fill my heart and mind with Father's passion and wisdom, that my hands and feet; my life, is a blessing to those I live with. That I help them see themselves through your eyes, that they might live trusting you in all they say and do. Amen.

30 September 2018

## THROUGH JESUS' EYES

Mark 9:38-50



How do you respond to today's reading from Mark? I don't know about you but it strikes a chord of alarm in me. Chopping off hands, gouging out eyes, being tested by fire. What do you make of what Jesus is saying to us?

If it was to be literally applied, I don't know about you, but I don't think there'd be much of me left! How about you?

Leading up to this reading Jesus was talking with his disciples about their desire to be the greatest. So Jesus took a child, a little child, and said; "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only

me but also my Father who sent me." (Mark 9:36,37)

Somehow I don't think the guys got what Jesus was saying because straight away we have John telling Jesus how he stopped people using his name when they were casting out demons. They weren't part of the group! Was John afraid of losing his position, losing his control. Was John worried about letting others share Jesus' power and authority? What do you think was motivating John? What motivates you when you think people are stepping in on your territory?

Again Jesus picks up the theme of a child: "But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to

fall into sin, it would be better for you to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck." (Mark 9:42) Is this Jesus saying loud and clear to the guys that it's not about you and your position. It's not about you and your sense of power and authority. Guys, I'm not here to feather your nest, so that you get what you want, so that you call the shots and everyone else has to jump. Guys I'm not here to replace one oppressive form of government with another dictatorial form of government.

In the reading did you notice Jesus use of the term; 'Kingdom of God'?

Yes, Jesus is ushering in a new

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

world order. Yes, Jesus does claim to be king, divinely appointed. But his kingdom isn't here to make him rich. Jesus kingdom doesn't exist to feed his ego or need for power and authority. Jesus hasn't come to take from us what he doesn't have, rather he's come to give us what we desperately need, what we don't have, but desperately need to live life, to live life well.

Is Jesus saying to the guys; chop out of your heart this desire to rule for your own gain. Guys I didn't give you hands to lord it over others; but to serve them. I didn't give you eyes to spot everyone's mistakes; but to see where they need my love and mercy in their lives. Guys let me burn this desire to dominate and subdue others right out of your hearts.

Is Jesus saying that he wants his disciples lives to bring out the wonderful flavour of his presence in other people's lives. For when Jesus flavours our lives with his presence we discover life, rich and satisfying life.

That's peace; life

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Jesus has empowered us to breathe his life into people.

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lived in Jesus' presence, rejoicing with him, celebrating life lived together in Father's loving embrace. What an amazing rich and full life Jesus has won for us; creates for us to enjoy living in his kingdom.

Instead of causing people to stumble, Jesus has empowered us to breathe his life into them. We are empowered to pick up the little children so that they might

know their heavenly Father. Know his loving embrace through us. Know how to walk his way as they follow our lead. Know how to look at life through their Father's eye, and discover the wonder and beauty he has placed there.

They can look at themselves through Father's eyes; seeing what he sees. Isn't it great that when we look through our heavenly Father's eyes we don't see a long list of failures and mistakes.

Would that be a sad, sad, way to exist, seeing yourself through your mistakes, your limits, you failures? I think that is what lies behind Jesus' use of the word 'sin'.

We totally trivialise the word 'sin' when we equate it simply to wrong actions, failures and mistakes. I let one of

those little ones who trust Jesus, fall into sin, when I allow them to see themselves through the eyes of performance, and not through the eyes of their loving, heavenly Father, who delights in them.

Have you ever noticed how life gets sapped out of people when all you do is load guilt onto them? When you focus on their mistakes and condemn them. When people are only left with having to perform to be accepted the joy of life goes and is replaced by doubt, fear, insecurity. The delight of their Father evaporates from their gaze and all they are left with is an insatiable need to live up to some totally unrealistic expectation. What a hellish way to life.

In lots of ways I think that is the world Jesus' disciples are coming out of. A

world where they are expected to perform. Where they need to obey the rules, or else.

God gave his people ten rules to free them for life together, and by the time Jesus is born there are well over 300 rules and regulations you'd better not break

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Live out this life of trust in Jesus.

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otherwise you'll be punished. And Jesus was punished, he broke the Sabbath, so he had to go. He claimed God as his father, he had to die. There were consequences, this couldn't be tolerated, people had to obey the rules.

What sort of society had the Pharisees of Jesus day helped create? The Pharisees were the law police of the day who got you to look at yourself through

the eyes of disappointment and rage. Not a lot of joy there.

How do you think Jesus wants the little ones who trust in him to live? How do you think Jesus wants the little ones who trust him to see themselves? How do you think Jesus wants the little ones who trust him to walk through life?

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Has the penny dropped that you're one of the little ones? Jesus has invited you to trust him, to follow him, to seek to grow to be like him, as you live out being his disciple. You're one of the little ones who trust Jesus.

So my desire is to help you live out this life of trust in Jesus. My passion is to help you live by this faith you have in Jesus. Seeing yourself through Jesus' eyes, so that you might walk confidently into