

Actually is there a better place to be than totally dependent on God, at his mercy? I only read just this week, Jesus doing just that, as he hung on the cross, his final words; 'Father into your hands I give my soul'. And with that he dies; totally dependent on his Father, trusting his love and mercy. Jesus didn't have a few dollars to slip the Father to make sure things went his way.

No Jesus allows himself to be totally vulnerable; trusting his Father with his life. Taking the heavenly Father at his word; that he'll raise Jesus to life Sunday morning. What a risk!

I think this is what Jesus is inviting each of us to do as we

follow him. Let go of our wealth and find life, security, identity, ourselves, in him. Wealth can be such a killer, for without thinking we let it determine who we are, how we see the world, what we value as important, shaping our decision making.

Jesus has come that you might have life; a rich and satisfying life. Let's risk inviting Jesus to shape us, and reject money and wealth as the gods that shape our decisions and the way we view the world, the way we seek to live life.

Join with me; 'Jesus we invite you to open our eyes that we see life through your eyes, that we see each other through your eyes. Free us from the lie of wealth,

we want to discover the riches of life lived intimately with you. We want to follow you, using our lives to bring glory and honour to our Father as we seek to do what he says is best, that it benefits those around us as we pay the price; just like Jesus. Jesus fill our hearts and minds with the Spirit for we know left to ourselves this would be totally impossible. Thank you that we are not left to ourselves but that you have already given your life for us that we might live life to the full in you.'

14 October 2018

## SEE LIFE THROUGH JESUS

Mark 10:17-31



I find the prophet Amos so relevant for today. He's speaking to a community obsessed with prosperity, wealth, comfort, that it has become blind to what it is really doing. I can just hear them saying; 'Our responsibility is to the share-holder! The goal of business is to make a return and as big as possible to satisfy the share-holder.'

How has that principle worked for our big four banks?

The pay gap between the haves and the have nots is getting wider and wider. To run a business do you have to consume more food, power, water, and possessions than the people simply seeking to make a

living? Or could it simply be greed! Amos is speaking to a nation obsessed with wealth creation, to the point they have forgotten their creator. To the point they have lost sight of caring for each other. They were created to be a people who were a living reflection of their God; the creator of all.

Does greed reflect God? What do you think?

God's chosen people had become blind to who they were. They ended up worshipping wealth, luxury, comfort, economic gain. They sought to manipulate things to their advantage, and so we hear the poor are trampled on, bribes are the norm in

business, and people are deprived of justice.

Amos was God's prophet to his people, and it seems not much has changed, for we are told a rich man comes to Jesus asking what he has to do to be saved.

Do you notice he is also blinded by his wealth; blind to what his wealth is doing to others, or not doing for them.

Do you think much has changed from then to now?

I think my wealth at times blinds me to the reality of how God sees me. I can point the finger at those earning way, way more than they ever could need to live. And I'd be right; the only problem is that when I point a

### Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

finger at others, there are four pointing back at me! I'm not exactly wasting away to nothing from lack of food. I think I've still got a few reserves and then some.

What does it feel like God is saying to us; through Amos, through Jesus?

Is Jesus' answer to the world's poor for you and me to sell everything and give it to the poor? Was Jesus serious when he invited this young seeker to sell everything, give it to the poor and then follow him?

I'm not real sure how I would have felt if that were me; it is me!

Jesus is inviting me to not trust my wealth and possessions. Jesus is inviting me to not find my personal worth in my net worth. Jesus is inviting me to live free of the entanglement of

wealth and the fear of not having it, and the horror of losing it.

Did you notice we are told that Jesus had 'genuine love' for this seeker? I think that is important. We don't have Jesus standing over this guy condemning him, berating him for his wealth. Jesus has

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### This question of wealth potentially traps us all.

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genuine love for this seeker.

This question of wealth is one that potentially can trap us all. We are all tempted to believe money can solve our problems and give us security. If you don't believe me, next time lotto jackpots take notice how many people buy a ticket. I think they believe winning millions will change their lives for the better.

Now it might, but it might not. Money is not the issue, it is the power we allow it to have over us. It is the belief that goes along with money that can trap us, enslave us, rob us of our compassion.

The Children of Israel were looking at life through the mighty

dollar and they believed it could offer them a better life. Does that remind you of any other stories in the bible where

people are tempted to take what they want because someone has told them it will give them a better life?

For those not familiar with many bible stories let me point you to about the first story. Adam and Eve were created by God, their loving Father. He placed them in paradise; not a bad shack. He gave them authority over everything. He gave them food galore. He blessed them with a

satisfying career. What more could you want.

Have you ever noticed that no matter how much people have, there is always the belief just a bit more wouldn't go astray?

Adam and Eve had it all, till Eve was tempted to believe there was more. Eve was tempted to look at life through the eyes of, not enough, and she was offered everything. All she had to do was what?

The very thing I'm tempted to do with money and possession. Eve was invited to worship the one who was promising her the world. So she worships the devil, letting him shape how she saw herself, her world, her life, her marriage.

Please note this time now is not 'worship', this is a time we

gather for Jesus to serve us, keeping our vision 22/22, through him. Then we are able to go and worship seeing ourselves through his eyes, seeing our world, our life, our relationships through Jesus eyes. When we look at life through Jesus eyes we are able to make

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### Jesus came into the world to do what...

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choices that reflect him. When we value ourselves and the people we share life with through Jesus eyes, we are empowered to love them, to serve them, to seek to do what is best for the other and be willing to pay.

Isn't that Jesus' example? Jesus came into the world, seeking to do what is best for us, so that we benefit and he willingly payed the price; his life.

If I was looking at you through the eyes of the mighty dollar, I wouldn't be seeking to give myself away in service to you. I'd be asking myself that all important question; what's in it for me?

The rich young man who was speaking with Jesus, was still looking at life through the eyes of the mighty dollar. Jesus invited him to look at life as one of his disciples, but he couldn't. He couldn't take off his glasses of wealth and privilege; and so goes away sad, 'for he had many possessions'. He couldn't see how life could work without his many possessions.

At times I feel trapped in the same blindness. I ask questions like; who'd look after me, where would I live, what would I eat, I'd be totally dependent, at God's mercy.