

the whole, alone we lose our place. Dad loves his family, loves sharing life with his family. He's not after a fragmented family who don't play well together, who won't talk together, who fight to get what they want. Our heavenly Dad loves his family, and seeks that his love finds living expression in his 'Holy Place'; his family.

That's another thought that makes me nervous, because if I'm honest, there are times I get cranky, feed-up, times I want to walk away and do my own thing. But a lone brick a house does not make, let alone a home.

So I ask myself; 'What am I hanging on too tightly to, that it is getting in the road of me letting Jesus' love flow through me.

Where might I be in danger of losing my place, of missing seeing Father's 'Holy Place'? I know when I get cranky, I feel justified because I'm right. But I could find myself right, right outside of Father's 'Holy Place'. It's not about being right; it's about knowing I'm loved, precious, favoured, forgiven, by my heavenly Dad, and letting this flow into everything I do and say, because its now who I am in Jesus.

And then Paul gives this wonderful invitation; 'let's *do it*'. Let's not talk about it, but let's boldly walk into that 'Holy Place', in Father's heart, into Jesus' loving embrace, into the Spirit's presence, and be living the fullness of life we have in that 'Holy Place'.

Alone we lose our place. Thank God, we're not alone. Jesus has won life for us, the Spirit is with us, together we can be living as that wonderful community of faith Father has created us to be. Together, each piece makes the whole, alone we lose our place.

Jesus is inviting you to daily be living in Father's 'Holy Place'. To be living out that wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection through the Spirit, with each other. Today invite Jesus in, listen to his voice, and step out boldly living from Father's heart.

18 November 2018
SO LET'S DO IT!
 Hebrews 10:22



If I have a collection of bricks do I have a house?

If I have a collection of bricks do I have a home?

Did you hear those bind blowing words Jesus spoke. The temple; one of the wonders of the ancient world, and he said it would become just a pile of rubble. The temple, that's God house! Can you imagine what must have been going through people's minds?

I'm sure for many it just didn't make sense; destroying God's house, the temple! That can't be right, after all it was God who told us to build it, wasn't it! This can't be right. If we destroy the temple, where would we worship God? How

could we come into his presence? Where would we pray to? Destroy the temple, this magnificent building, that all the world knows honours our god; surely not!

Just imagine someone coming in here today and declaring that not one stone of this building will be left on top of another; it will be completely demolished. I'd be thinking; 'I'm not sure if you can just come in and knock down our church'. I think a few people might get excited if Monday morning there was a wrecking ball ready to swing!

What do you hold so dear that you couldn't bear losing it? What would strike at your heart?

Jesus declaring the destruction of the

temple struck at the heart. Surely God wouldn't allow his house to be destroyed, again!

A pile of rocks a temple does not make! A pile of bricks a house does not make.

To have a house you need a plan. You need mortar to bind the bricks together as part of that plan. Then you not only have a house but the potential for it to become a home.

What's the difference between a house and a home? (Ask the person next to you what they think).

A home needs people. People who love one another. A family who share life together in that house. I think that's what God is after, not a building, but a home, a place where he can share

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

life together with his family. Where they can laugh together, cry together, play together, eat together. Who thinks this would be on God's heart?

Seeing he invites us to call him 'Dad' I reckon we'd been spot on. Our heavenly Dad is after a conversational relationship of love and affection, shared together with his family. And I reckon our heavenly 'Dad' would love to see his kids playing together; happily, joyfully, lovingly, in his place.

No wonder Jesus had the Temple that was made of stone knocked down. It was getting in the road. It had become more important than his family. The building had become the focus; an all-consuming focus for some. They were so consumed by their passion for the building that when the owner turned up to celebrate life with them they killed him.

How dare he desecrate their holy place, that magnificent building, that they were committed to keeping. How dare he threaten their temple; but it wasn't their temple, was it!

I don't know about you, but I always begin to feel a bit uneasy when these

Where's God's 'Holy Place'?

thoughts come to my mind, because I begin to reflect on where I have made things my focus, at the expense of people. I begin to cringe at the things I can't lose; building, liturgy, sermon, manse, because I've forgotten the whole point of all these things. I've begun to think that they're there for me; their mine. But they're not!

Some days I scare myself because I feel like I've become more like the religious

zealots of Jesus' day, who ended up killing the owner of the house because he didn't fit in with their plans.

What are God's plans?

Hear again what we read from the letter to the Hebrews; "This new plan (notice this is

God's plan) This new plan I'm making with Israel (Israel stands for his chosen people. The people he has chosen to love.) It

isn't going to be written on paper, isn't going to be chiselled in stone; This time 'I'm writing out the plan *in* them, carving it on the lining of their hearts.'

He concludes, I'll forever wipe the slate clean of their sins." (Heb. 10:18)

God's plan is 'carved on the lining of our hearts'. In other words, it's personal. You don't get personal with a building, you get personal with another person. Jesus is God getting

personal with us, with you.

So I love what Paul wrote next; "So, friends, we can now – without hesitation – walk right up to God, into 'the Holy Place'. Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice." (Heb. 10:19)

Where is this 'Holy Place'?

Notice Jesus makes sure we don't confuse this 'Holy Place' with a building. The building got destroyed so that can't be focused on it. Where is this 'Holy Place'? It's not this building; Jesus has removed buildings and all religious traditions. Remember, that magnificent building was completely demolished. Where is his 'Holy Place'?

This gets me thinking of what is written on the back of our next jigsaw piece: 'Together each piece makes the whole,

alone we lose our place.'

Where's God's 'Holy Place'?

Amazingly one answer to that question is; us. We're what's precious to God; his loved children. In Jesus, without a shadow of doubt, that's what you are; Father's child,

God doesn't want us to lose our place.

chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life. Where have you heard that wonderful truth before?

God's new temple, where he feels at home, is made up of people, not rocks. And not a scattered people, but a people bound together in Jesus. God's temple isn't a scattered bunch of people, but a people united in him, united in his grace and mercy through Jesus.

God doesn't want you to be living as an island; doing your own thing, just worried about yourself. How is that sort of life a living reflection of his very personality, his loving personality?

God doesn't want us to lose our place, our place is in his heart. We are God's 'Holy

Place'. Not because we are perfect but because he has chosen to give his life for us, that we might be living in a

wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection with him, and each other. That's God's 'Holy Place'.

This build, this service, this book, aren't God's 'Holy Place'. They can serve God's 'Holy Place'; that's the people he loves. But none of the trappings we see around us today are what Jesus has given his life for. Wouldn't you agree?

Together each piece, each person, makes