

Jesus has empowered you to love other people, to free other people, to proclaim the reality of his love and affection for other people.

So Jesus invites us not to be pretenders; simply doing things to gain other people's approval. All that does is show how truly lost we are. All that does is show how far from knowing Jesus' loving presence in our life we are.

When I find myself playing the pretender, I weep. I don't want to be a pretender; I want to be living in the reality Jesus created through his crucifixion. So I weep and invite the Spirit to heal me, to grow me, so that I can be living true to who I am in Jesus. I want to be

Jesus world changer, as I live out his love and affection, doing what I see him doing, saying what I hear him saying. For no other reason that I know him, and realise he knows me.

I simply want to be living the reality of this relationship Jesus created through his crucifixion; not playing games, not trying to win approval, not being a pretender. Jesus is my treasure; it is in this relationship that I seek life. It is this relationship with

Jesus that I want all people to know and celebrate living in, today, tomorrow, forever.

So I'm inviting, asking Jesus to send the Spirit that over this Lenten season I get to share him with a new person each day; so that Jesus might be a living, breathing, loving reality in their lives.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

6 March 2019

WEEP; PROCLAIM; LIVE IT

Ash Wednesday



Tonight I'd just like to look at a few phrases from our readings and see how they might apply in our lives.

From the prophet Joel we hear these words: "Don't let your special possession become an object of mockery. Don't let them become a joke for unbelieving foreigners who say, 'Has the God of Israel left them?'" (Joel 2:17)

Sadly when people look at the behaviour of the 'church' as a whole, I think many people see us as an object of mockery. Have you ever heard people say that the church is full of hypocrites? Have you lamented as another sex scandal blackens the name of the church; which whether we like it or

not blackens Jesus' name.

I even had someone ask me; 'What has God done lately. Sure he rose again 2,000 years ago, but what has he done lately.' It felt like I was being asked; 'Has the God of Israel left us?' 'Has Jesus left the building, leaving us an empty, powerless, gathering?'

Who was the last person you saw healed by faith in Jesus? Has Jesus left the building? Are we just a gathering of people with good moral principles that seem to be conveniently forgotten when they don't suit.

So Joel asks; 'Let the priests, who minister in the LORD's presence, stand and

weep between the entry room to the Temple and the altar. Let them pray, 'Spare your people, LORD!'" (Joel 2:17)

Who are the priests who minister in the LORD's presence, if it isn't you and I? Jesus is inviting us to weep, to weep because his love for the people of this community has been hidden, lost in an array of unrepentant behaviour, and plain lies of the devil. So I weep, and invite you to weep too. This unrepentant behaviour and lies of the devil aren't what Jesus gave his life for. It isn't what we're called to proclaim.

Jesus invites you to weep, not because you are bad, but because so many people fail to see him for who he is. So

many people fail to find life in him, the very thing Jesus offers. Life; life lived in a conversational relationship of love and affection, where Jesus supernatural love is lived out naturally.

I weep for this to be a living reality in my life, in your life, in the life of every person I meet. This is what is on God's heart, he can't passively standby and see a single person be lost; it breaks his heart.

I want it to break my heart as well. I invite you to weep too, to weep for those you know who don't know, let alone have experienced Jesus love for them. Weep and invite the Spirit to lead you each day of the Lenten season to a person that you might share your faith with. Invite Jesus to give you the words to say, and the actions that flow from his

heart for these people.

That's why Paul wrote: "So we are Christ's ambassadors (that's you, Christ's ambassador); God is making his appeal through us (through you). We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!' For God made

I weep for this to be a living reality in my life.

Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." (2 Cor. 5:20,212)

What amazing love we have in Jesus; he has given his life that we might know his Father for who he really is, in an intimate relationship of love. Jesus has given his life so that this might be the reality for everyone, and amazingly he has invited you to join

him in this wonderful adventure.

Jesus' passion is for all people to discover in him an eternal purpose for their lives, a value way beyond anything they could ever do, and live loved – loved by God himself. This is why he is crucified; to make this a reality and not some pipe dream. I think people have had enough of pipe dreams and what to know the reality of God in their lives. And Jesus is the reality of God, in flesh and blood, so that we might be living with him right now. Today is the day of salvation.

Jesus has sent the Spirit that we might know the reality of his presence in our lives today; that we might be living from the value, acceptance and love we have in him, and not be held as slaves to everyone else's opinions, striving to

gain what we don't have.

Today is the day of salvation, for Jesus wants you to be living in the reality of his life giving presence today, through the Spirit. Letting his acceptance shape the way you treat other people; accepting them for who they are in him, not for what they might or might not offer you.

Today is the day of salvation, for Jesus wants you to be living from the value he fills your life with. What worth we have to live out in Jesus. What value he gives for us to infuse in every aspect of our lives.

In Jesus what I do doesn't give me value, through Jesus I give value to everything I do. What freedom Jesus invites you to be living today. In Jesus you are a world changer, for the

world doesn't shape you, your life in Jesus has the power to liberate the people you come into contact with.

Today is the day of salvation, for Jesus wants you to live loved, for in him that is your reality; you are loved. Jesus crucifixion spells out

Today is the day of Salvation...

love; for he withholds nothing from you. He has given his all, that you might live loved today, no matter what happens or doesn't happen. You're not a slave to the happenings of life; you get to live this supernatural love of Jesus, naturally into everything you do and to everyone you meet.

I certainly want to be living that way. So I weep, and yearn for Jesus to grow me to

ever greater maturity in him.

What about you; is that the way you want to be living; accepted in Jesus, valued in Jesus, loved in Jesus, living your salvation today and into a wonderful future where you get to live face-to-face with Jesus in a world where all that would steal, kill or destroy who we are is gone. Not even a fading memory.

I certainly want to be living intimately with Jesus, in that wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection he has created, so that I can be living out his supernatural love, quite naturally.

So Jesus in our reading from Matthew reminds us to keep it real and not to play games. Don't lose your salvation by playing games to impress other people. What a waste, when