

This week when the devil comes a tempting; getting you to compare yourself with other, getting you to try and prove your worth, getting you to believe your worth it; reject him. Reject him and invite the Spirit to flood your heart and soul with the truth that in Jesus you are Father's favoured one.

Revel in being favoured, immerse yourself in being favoured, that as you meet people this week you greet them with a smile that

echoes Father's favour. For no other reason than you know his favour.

This week as you pray, do it from that wonderful position of favour. You are a favoured child, of course Dad wants to hear your voice, of course he wants to be involved in your life, of course he wants to grow you to be all that he has dreamed possible. This week spend time enjoying being with your heavenly Father, with Dad. Talk to him about everything as his favoured one.

Let's pray.
Heavenly Father, thanks for favouring me, by forgiving me, by Jesus crucifixion and resurrection, by the Spirit's presence with me each day. Open my heart and soul to embrace your favour that it infects my thinking and the way I treat the people you bring across my path this week. Let me encounter a new person each day this week that I might share you with them, so that they too might live in your favour.

10 March 2019

FAVoured 1

‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’

Over LENT I'm going to be looking at the book 'Favoured' with the subtitle 'Living in a daily experience of God's favour'.

You might be asking what has this to do with Easter; being favoured! In my mind the two were linked quickly, even though the book starts with the angels greeting to Mary as he announces to her that she is pregnant with Jesus. The angel said; 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'

Was Mary the favoured one because of who she was, or because God had chosen her to be a blessing to the entire world. Or was she simply favoured because the Lord was with her.

Jesus giving his life for us, for me, on the cross reminds me that I am favoured, because he has given his life for me. Jesus amazing act is what creates this position of being favoured.

I can assure you it has nothing to do with how wonderful I am. I'm not special, having never made a mistake, always living with God at the forefront of my mind. I can assure you I'm not favoured because I'm super spiritual; I'm just a down-to-earth person. Nothing special here. Nothing that would force God to notice me and rush out to celebrate me.

But I can assure you, I'm favoured. Jesus has, not might, but HAS, been born my brother. Jesus HAS given his life that I

might be forgiven, that I might know without a shadow of doubt that I am loved by God, my heavenly Father. And Jesus continues to remember me, to know me, to seek to share his life with me through the Spirit. Because that's just the sort of person Jesus is. That's just the sort of person my heavenly Father is; he has great favour for his children, for me, his child.

So today I've got a word from God for you; personally from your heavenly Father. Today your heavenly Dad says; 'Greetings, favoured one! I'm with you.' Actually he might say it to us with more of an Aussie flavour; 'G'day Mate!' Maybe not so Aussie!

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Let me ask you; 'How do you hear your loving heavenly Dad greeting you?' What words spring to your mind; favoured one.

One of the first things that springs to my mind is; 'Oh, not me!'

Today in the reading from Luke's story on Jesus' life we read about him being

tempted. Jesus had just been baptised, where his Father had quite clearly said;

'You're my son, chosen and marked by my love, the delight of my life.' And then we have Jesus genealogy, which goes right back to 'Adam son of' – who does it say Adam's father is? 'Son of God'.

Are we left in any doubt about who Jesus is; and that he is favoured? I'd say there's no doubt about it.

Till the devil comes, comes to cast doubt. He begins with that

doubt creating word, 'if'. 'If you are the son of God'. Do you hear him spinning his doubt; there is no if, Jesus is the Son of God, his Father just declared it at his baptism and spelt out his lineage. This is a statement of fact; there are no 'ifs'. Yet the devil spins his web of deceit, if

How do you hear your loving heavenly Dad greeting you?

you're God's son, then, prove it. Do something special. Do something spectacular. Do something.

What does Jesus do? When asked to prove yourself, what have you done? Prove you're not scared. Prove your worth by your ATR score. Prove it, otherwise I won't believe you. What does Jesus do when the devil challenges him to prove himself?

Today in Jesus, your heavenly Father greets you; 'Greetings favoured one!'

In Jesus there is no doubt about it; but I'm sure the devil is there spinning his web of deceit, casting doubt, getting you to compare yourself with others, getting to wonder if you are worthy, or maybe getting you to think you are worth it.

The devil's great desire is to destroy your relationship with the heavenly Father that you have in Jesus. He once was a favoured one, but threw it away, figuring he deserved it, after all he was the most spectacular of all angels. Why wouldn't God admire him and want to have him around? Pride destroyed Father's favour, leaving a rather bitter and twisted soul.

I invite you to read the first seven

chapters of 'Favoured' and hear your heavenly Father's greeting; 'Greetings, favoured one! I'm with you'.

I invite you to hear his favour and invite the Spirit to open your heart and soul to live in it daily. To let your heavenly Father's favour find living expression in your daily life; for Dad wants you to enjoy his favour, to live in it daily, to live it out daily, to infect the people you meet with his favour.

What a world changer that makes you; favoured one! (Please don't do it to be a world changer, simply live true to who you are. In Jesus you are Father's favoured one.)

This week I invite you to let your favour shine through; you are a favoured child of God. Let it shine through in the way you talk with other

people, greeting them with a smile, not expecting anything from them, living expectantly, looking forward to what Father might give them through you.

You are favoured. What a precious gift.

This week I invited

I invite you to hear Father's favour...

those at the Ash Wednesday service to live as favoured ones, by asking Father to bring across their path a new person each day of lent to share Jesus with. So today I invite you, favoured ones, to do the same; this lent ask your heavenly Dad to lead you to a new person each day to share his love with them.

Why can we be so bold and ask Dad to do this? Because we are his favoured

ones. We don't come grovelling, that isn't the posture of a favoured child. We don't come demanding, that isn't the demeanour of a favoured child. We can be so bold because our Dad has called us his favour children, and loves it when we share life with him.

Our heavenly Dad loves spending time with his favoured children; talking with them, laughing with them, going out into the harvest field with them. He just loves being with his favoured ones!

How often do you stop and reflect on your heavenly Dad loving spending time with you, just being with you, his favoured one? Spending time with you for no other reason that he wants to; he loves you, you're his favoured one.