

have gone of on a tangent of death.

Thank God, that in Jesus, we're not terrified of God, but we can live trusting his favour.

Then God's favour is set free to begin its work within our hearts; which eventually flows into what we do. God's favour softens our heart and compassion comes out. God's favour heals our heart and bitterness is replaced with thankfulness. God's favour heals our hurt feelings and love comes to life. God's favour takes our language and has the power to shape our words into words of life.

In God's favour you are able to face

whatever is before you with the disposition of someone whose identity is rock solid. Your life now flows from the depth of your heart; a favoured heart. Your heart isn't shaped by the happening of life; your favoured heart leads to a life of liberation, no matter the circumstance.

Today I invite you to let Jesus' favour bring healing.

Let us pray. Jesus, I invite you to send the Spirit to open my heart and mind to one area

you'd like to bring increased healing into my life. In your favour let me have the courage to be open and honest, that I don't run and hide but bring things out into the open and receive your healing. If you want me to seek help from another person, in your favour, give me the humility to reach out and accept help. Jesus grow me this week in living favoured by you.

24 March 2019

FAVoured 3

' This is what the Lord has done for me.. Luke 1:25.'

This week in chapters 15 – 21 Peter looks at how God's favour brings healing. It brought healing to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. "She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'" (Luke 1:25)

One of the great killers of joy is guilt. One of the destroyers of peace is shame. That was Elizabeth, living in a community where she felt shame, the shame of not having a child, for the implication was that she must have done something to offend God for this to happen. Elizabeth living with guilt; why me!

Of course the reality is that God's favour doesn't depend on having children or not having children. It is God's favour that gives us the peace of mind to face life's challenges.

God's favour of you, in Jesus, continually reminds you that God is not ashamed of you; so you have no reason for shame. You may have reason to change what you are doing; and in Jesus' favour you'll find the strength to do it. Shame doesn't give anyone the power to change to be all that God has dreamed possible.

God's favour of you, in Jesus, lifts your sense of guilt. In Jesus you are forgiven; that's favour. You are forgiven, that means

your mistakes and failings aren't you. They are mistakes and failings, sure, but they're not you. In Jesus you are favoured, you are precious, you have the power to change, the power to be all that Jesus has dreamed possible. And that brings peace; because peace is living in God's fullness. And that is precisely what Jesus brings. In Jesus you live favoured of God.

Notice I didn't say you live perfect; I said you live favoured. Being perfect could lead to pride; which is the devil's downfall. His false pride lead him out of favour, as he sought to rely on his beauty and wonder. It didn't work; it destroyed him, and

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

has left him bitter and resentful ever since.

In Jesus you are favoured; that means you can freely come to him and live life with him. That was the invitation we heard from Isaiah this morning; "Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink – even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk – it's all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength?

Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food." (Isaiah 55:1,2)

What a wonderful invitation. Not you deserve it. Not work harder. No, God invites you to feast on him, to live in his favour, simply because that is who he is.

It is so crippling living under the unrealistic expectation of others.

It is soul destroying always trying to be, but never making it. It doesn't matter how hard you try, you could always have done more.

Thank God, Jesus puts this to death and replaces it with his underserved favour. Now we get to feast on Jesus; his love,

'Come, take your choice... it's all free!'

his forgiveness, his peace, his mercy and wonderfully as we feast on Jesus his character begins to be displayed in our lives. What a wonderful gift.

If I deserve it for all my hard work, the joy is gone, replaced by what I see as my rights, or replaced by resentment because I didn't get what I deserved. Or anger because others who didn't work as hard as me have been rewarded, in my

eyes, more than me. How unfair!

Favour frees us from these attitudes and births in us true humility. It grows in us a wonderful sense of thankfulness. For favour is never deserved, just freely give, that we might enjoy living favoured. What beautiful

humility Jesus' favour grows.

Jesus spoke about those who refused to repent. He told the story

of the fig tree, planted in the vineyard, that didn't bear any fruit. He was speaking to those who stubbornly refused to repent; it was everyone else who needed to change, not them.

Jesus' favour grows humility, where we discover such a safety we are free to ask for help. How many people in the world do you think might need a bit of help in some area of their lives? How

many people do you know who don't have any issues to face?

Jesus' favour grows humility in me so that I'm secure enough to own my need for change. I'm far from perfect; I just visited the doctor this week and he agreed!

Thank God he places us in community, where we can be there for each other. Where we can find a listening ear, and encouraging word, a doctor's advice.

Daily, or at least when I remember, I pray for humility. I pray to find such security in Jesus' favour that I'm free to admit my needs and then look for help. Free to see the people Jesus has placed around me so that I might grow to greater maturity. It is wonderful knowing I'm favoured. It is liberating living favoured in Jesus.

So Jesus' favour allows me to migrate from the land of death to the kingdom of life and light. Jesus' favour allows me to migrate from a place of shame – induced despair, to a place of favour – released delight.

What a wonderful kingdom to live in, for

Being favour gives me the security to be open.

in Jesus kingdom, where I find myself favoured, I always know what to expect from Father. He always views me as his loved child, the delight of his life. In that wonderful freedom I can face my demons and live victorious.

Have you noticed that it is when you try and hide your mistakes, or hide from them that life falls apart. It doesn't work pretending nothing is wrong.

Jesus' way is to bring it out into the open with him, allow him in and then live life the best way he knows how. Being favoured gives me the security to be open and honest, so that I can live with Jesus, without playing games.

What intimacy Jesus intends for this to produce. We know are set free to let Jesus see into us; for we trust his favour. Jesus favour

won't change, he already knew what was going on, your being open and honest isn't telling him anything new. Did you know that?

What is does is bring things into the open where they can be dealt with. There I can see what is getting in the road of me know God for who he is. There I get liberated as I discover what I didn't know about God's love for me, because if I did I would not