

What a difference access makes; in Jesus you have access to Father. In Jesus you have access to new life, you are created new.

Just think about it; Jesus' access has opened up a whole new world for you. Jesus' access has opened up a whole new power for living. If nothing else loved people can love, for no other reason than that they are loved.

You are favoured, and with that favour comes access to the heart of God. Jesus has opened the way into Father's heart; what wonderful access.

So now we have fridge rights in

heaven. We can come in and enjoy life with Father; talking with him, listening to him, enjoy his company, sharing intimate moments with him, bring his life giving presence into everything we do and say. Talk about being empowered.

In Jesus, you are not a slave to the world around you. In Jesus, you are empowered to live true to who you are in him. To live that into everything you do and say; that makes you a world changer. The circumstances of life don't have to shape you; they can simply give you a wonderful opportunity to give living expression to

Father's love that you enjoy through the Son, living it out with the Spirit.

Through Jesus' favour, you have access to a whole new way of living, so you change the world rather than it twisting you into it's shape.

Good News; in Jesus our King, "you are not powerless, you are not resourceless, you are not alone. Jesus has given you access. Father is well pleased with you. Holy Spirit lives within you. You can exercise your authority and reign in life because you have access. You have favour." p88

31 March 2019

FAVoured 4

'He returned to his father ... Luke 15:11-32'

This week in chapters 22 – 28 of the book 'Favoured' Peter looks at how God's favour brings access.

Why is access important you might be asking? Peter gives two examples. First, if you wanted to gain access to his parents place, "**you'd** probably need a combination of a baseball bat, a certain amount of energy, and persistence.

If **I** (Peter) wanted to gain access to that same unit, all I need is a certain combination of numbers.

Your attempt will do damage, leave a

mess, and possibly get you arrested.

Mine will get me a hug and a cup of tea." p86

Access is important wouldn't you say. I certainly don't want someone taking to my home with a baseball bat.

The second, again using his parents as an example. Peter writes; "It's a joy to visit my parents at their place. When I turn up and knock on the door, I always hear the same cry come back, 'Come on in. It's open'. I have access. They are happy to see me.

Just imagine if, upon entry, I

started the conversation like this, 'I'm sorry it was me, not Michael who hit the cricket ball through the window when we were kids... My father would look at me and say, 'What on earth are you on about? Do you want a cup of tea or not?'" p80

Access is important. If I'm grovelling all the time, feeling guilty all the time, living on egg shells all the time, what sort of life is that? Access is important. Today we heard the story of the 'Lost Son', which is a story that reminds me of the importance of access.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

The younger son was able to change because he knew his father didn't define him by his failure but by his favour. The younger son is attracted back to the father because of the access he hopes to get from his father.

Of course that's how the older brother viewed his little brother. He wasn't someone to be welcomed; he had wasted the family wealth, he had shamed the family, he had spent their wealth on prostitutes. He was a terrible

Thank God, in Jesus, we have it. We don't confess our way into favour. Favour isn't something you deserve; it is simply given as a gift. Our starting point is the favour Father has towards us, towards you.

He was hoping for access as a servant. At least that way he'd get three meals a day. The younger son got a lot more; he was embraced as a son, for in his father's mind, nothing had changed. He was embraced as the son he loved. What access, what joy, what a celebration of life. Access is important.

Access is important.
person.

"God's desire is that we prosper in life rather than drudge our way through it (Romans 5:17"
p78

How would you like to be defined by your failures?

How does knowing you're a terrible person make you feel? How does just stuffing things up make you feel? How does constant criticism make you feel?
It makes me feel unwanted, alienated, rejected. I'd rather not be around. Access is important.

The father in Jesus parable didn't want his sons to drudge their way through life. He wanted his younger son to live in his favour; not live ashamed of what he had done. He wanted his older son to live in his favour; not live bitter, feeling he was hard-done by. The father's access is granted to both his sons.

The parable finishes with an open ended question. The older son is being invited to come and celebrate. Access into his father's joy is being offered. Will he take it, or walk away. Will he deny father access to his heart?

Did you pick up that the older son felt he was worthy of his father's love, so he becomes defensive when someone he knows isn't worthy of his father's love is given it.

Are you worthy of God's love?

What a subtle twist the devil presents; for this question only has the power to steal, kill and destroy God's love. It simply is a lie that anyone can earn love. "The joy of the

Gospel is not in getting God to love us (to love you) but to relax into the reality of the love he already has for us (for you). Favour, it's yours!" p69

Jesus' access has the power to produce life. Jesus'

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favour breathes life into people. Jesus' favour allows people to come up close and personal with him, experiencing his love and affection.

In Jesus parable the younger son was welcomed back, not as a servant but as a son. A son, who had access to the father; access a servant could never have.

Do you see yourself as a slave or as Father's child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life?

Paul wrote; "we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know." (2 Cor. 5:16

Message) This way of looking at people didn't create access just division, mistrust, one-up-man-ship. It created a real mess.

"Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons!" (2 Cor. 5:18 Message)