

listening to God, being in communication with God important? I know Jesus' answer; a passionate yes.

It is important to him to share with you from his heart and soul. That's what he's given his life for. That you might not be controlled by fears, manipulated by what you don't have or thing you need. Existing in a locked room isn't living life to the full; isn't living a rich and satisfying life.

So Jesus comes in that we might know him personally, that we might hear his voice and discover life lived in that wonderful relationship of love and affection he has created. And then in that wonderfully secure relationship we share heart to heart. We grow in knowing each other, and life

becomes a wonderful act of trust, a wonderful opportunity to give living expression to the love and affection we have.

Jesus does want so much for us; so much life, a rich and satisfying life. A life that is lived to the full with him. Relationships which ooze his love, his personality into our everyday life.

Jesus does want so much for you; so he invites you to talk with him, to share from the heart being open and honest, and allow him to do the same.

I'm sure when you're talking with him he never gets distracted; you're far too important, he's invested his life in you. So Jesus invites you to come and talk, to listen, to seek a close, intimate

relationship with him, and experience life with him.

This week I invite you to be chatting with Jesus, about everything. I invite you to be open to his lead, listening to his responses. So whenever it strikes you stop, talk, listen, experience Spirit's presence, and risk doing that first thought that comes in answer to any questions you have.

Jesus is passionate about being involved in life with you; talk continuously with him.

11 August 2019
**WHY DO MY THOUGHTS WANDER
WHEN I'M PRAYING TO YOU?**



Last week we were reminded that prayer is first and foremost a conversation with God. When I'm in a conversation where I'm sharing with another from the heart, my mind doesn't wander. And Jesus has invited us to share with him from the heart and to expect a reply.

On reflection another question came to my mind; is prayer important. My mind will always wander if I'm doing something that I don't see as important, or is just a repetitive task. Is prayer important?

Is talking with God, listening to God, being in communication with God important?

That's what God is after, amazingly. God is after an honest, heart to heart sharing.

He's not after a lot of ceremony, but honest, heart to heart sharing in a relationship of love and affection.

So God speaking to his people through the prophet Isaiah said; "I'm sick of your burnt offering of rams and the fat of fattened cattle. I get no pleasure from the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to worship me, who asked you to parade through my courts with all your ceremony?" (Isaiah 1:11,12)

God isn't after us playing games, trying to butter him up, so we get what we want. Who yearns for that sort of relationship; where people put on a front so that they might in the end get what they want.

I know when I was young I used to do what I thought my mates wanted so that I'd be accepted by them. Does anyone see a floor in what I was doing?

If I'm doing what they want, then it's not me they accept, rather it is my perception of what they want. Will this create an honest relationship, shared heart to heart?

What's Jesus after? Here's part of a discussion he had while walking from Jerusalem to Galilee. Jesus stops at a well, he's thirsty, and he is in Samaritan territory. Samaritans and Jews were not the best of friends; actually they weren't really on talking terms.

Amazingly Jesus strikes up a

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

conversation with a woman; highly inappropriate. He asks her to draw him a drink of water from the well.

Jesus enters into conversation with this woman; which becomes deeply personal. A conversation which liberates this woman to be open and honest. At which point Jesus says; "...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way." (John 4:23)

I take that to mean Jesus wants us to be honest with him as he is with us; that's truth. And he's after a heart to heart relationship, not a superficial one; that's in spirit. Amazingly God has come to reveal to us, in Jesus, what is on his heart and soul. He's come to be open and honest and not play games trying to manipulate people

simply to get what he wants.

Good News, Jesus is not out to manipulate you to get something for himself; his goal, his passion, is that we know him personally, building a relationship of trust lived out in a conversational atmosphere.

Is open, honest conversation important?

Is open, honest conversation, from the heart important?

Only if you want that sort of relationship, and why wouldn't you want that sort of relationship with God. After all that's what he's risked his life to create.

Jesus didn't die on the cross to manipulate people; he's risked being open and honest with us, so that we could have a sense of security to be open and honest with

him. Jesus isn't out to manipulate people with fear and guilt, or to bribe people with treats, and he's not interested in people doing that to him either.

That's what the prophet Isaiah was saying; all your rituals, all your performances won't manipulate God

to do what you want. God's just not interested in our manipulation of him in our desire to get what we want.

Actually, who would want to be in such a relationship like that with anyone? I must admit at times I'm tempted to play games to get people's approval, or use guilt to manipulate, I've even been known to do the old passive aggressive to get what I want. And the simple truth is, none of it works. None of this creates an open and honest relationship of love and affection.

So Jesus comes personally. Jesus comes to reveal himself, his heart and soul, personally. So the heartbeat of Jesus is a relationship. A relationship of love and affection, where we talk openly and honestly from the heart.

Jesus dies to being manipulated by threats, anger, hatred, revenge. You can crucify him, and he'll remain the same. His passion to share his life with you personally stays the same. So when Jesus is raised from the dead you don't see someone on a vendetta to get even with those who killed him, those who betrayed him and deserted him when he needed them most.

I love hearing Jesus' first words to his disciples as John recorded them. We have the disciples hiding in a locked room; what an image. And Jesus comes right

into the middle of that room.

He could have used guilt, fear, anger to manipulate the disciples. But if he'd have done that all they would have seen was someone to avoid, to be frightened of, to play the game of placating with.

Jesus dies to being manipulated.

Jesus comes into the middle of their fear and says; "Peace be with you." (John 20:19) I love hearing those words; 'Tim, my peace be with you; let's face that fear, let's grow in love, I'm here for you, we can do this'.

Jesus is saying to you and me; "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.' Then Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive

anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you don't forgive them, they're not forgiven." (John 20:21-23)

What words of liberation, never manipulation. Jesus desire is that we like him have an open and honest relationship with Father, and seek

to share that relationship so people can be set free to live life knowing they're loved, forgiven, precious to God.

Fear, guilt, manipulation, being passive aggressive, are not on Jesus agenda. Trust is. Living in an open, trusting relationship because you know what's on his heart and soul. Taking Jesus at his word, following him simply because you know you can trust him. Now that's Jesus passion. That's what Jesus is after with you.

I began asking; is talking with God,