

with out of favour with God. In Jesus we live in favour with God.

Not because we're such wonderful people, but because he's opened the door and we are invited in.

Which means we can invite him in. Invite him into our lives knowing he is the one we can trust. Knowing that he loves us more than his own life. Knowing he comes with forgiveness, so that we are not condemned but grown through life.

In Jesus my mistakes don't destroy me, don't crush me, for I'm not the sum total of my mistakes. Jesus defines me, so that I am now free to learn from my mistakes. I'm free to admit them and not live blindly, trapped by my pride, oppressed by my failures.

No in Jesus we have the time of the LORD'S favour. Jesus shapes me, so now I grow through life to become more and more like him.

Did I mention that Jesus' mission statement is also our mission statement?

Good News; in Jesus you are empowered and authorised to bring Good News to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, to give sight to the blind, and set the oppressed free, for in Jesus we're living in Father's favour.

I invite you to go and be all you are. To take this statement and breathe life into it

through your living. Your living empower by the Spirit. What an amazing life Jesus has invited us to share with him.

Let us pray. Jesus show me where you want me to live out our mission statement this week. Show me the people you want me to share you with this week that they have the opportunity to come into your kingdom and become all that you've made possible. Jesus daily fill me with the Spirit that I live your mission and none other.



Christ Church Lutheran

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

Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

27 January 2019

JESUS MISSION, OUR MISSION

Luke 4:14-21



Last Sunday we looked at 1 Corinthians 12 which talked about the gifts of the Spirit. Gifts given that we might live life up close and personal with Jesus and with each other. Encouraging each other up. Living this relationship together. Because that's Jesus' goal.

How do I know that this is Jesus' goal?

Today that's what we hear Jesus saying is his goal. Today we heard Jesus mission statement. And it is about bringing life into this world of death. It is about bringing people into the Kingdom of God, where they can live freely as citizens, as brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Let's hear again Jesus' mission statement as he shared it with his home town. Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah; "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be free, and that the time of the LORD'S favour has come." (Luke 4:18,19)

The first aspect mentioned in Jesus' mission statement I've often neglected, and that was; 'The Spirit of the LORD is upon me.'

By the way, as we look at Jesus mission statement, we are looking at our own. For wonderfully Jesus has invited each of us to continue what he

began. Because we've been baptised into Jesus, his mission statement is now mine, is now yours, is now ours.

What was the first aspect of Jesus' mission? 'The Spirit of the LORD is upon him.'

Jesus hasn't gone off doing his own thing; no matter how wonderful that might be. Jesus goes off in the power of the Spirit; the Spirit of the LORD.

Jesus is not a self-made man, his power and authority comes from the fact that he goes authorised by the LORD. So he's not trying to bring about what flows from his own initiative or according to his own abilities. No, Jesus steps out with the Spirit upon him. The living presence of God

with him; to guide, to direct, to empower, that together they go and win the world for the Father.

Of course this wonderfully means that we too have the Spirit of the LORD upon us. I don't simply go and do life as best I can. I go with God in person; the Spirit. Together we face life. Together we live life. Together we bring life. The Spirit of the LORD is upon you, is upon us. We're dangerous. We're empowered to bring life into a world of death.

The second section of Jesus' mission statement is; "he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor."

What sort of news? Good News!

If all I can do is complain and discourage, I'm missing the mark. Any fool can condemn. But Jesus brings Good

News to the poor; to those who are already feeling condemned.

We are anointed in our baptism, to go and bring this Good News to the poor. To those who feel condemned, to those who have lost hope, to those struggling, wrestling with life. We can proclaim to them the Good News of Jesus,

The Spirit of the LORD is upon me.

of Jesus and his Kingdom.

The Good News that Jesus is king, and you can be a citizen in his kingdom. In fact he's given his life, out of love, to make that a reality. You can live with Jesus as king; what security we have, what love we have, what purpose we have.

Isn't that amazing; as you live out Jesus' kingdom, today, you are living out eternity. You're life counts,

What you do has eternal dimensions.

In Jesus we are no longer poor; we are rich. Rich in the Father's loving embrace. Rich for we know who we are, and what we are here for. We are rich for our power and authority to act is based on Jesus' power and authority.

That's real power and authority to do as Jesus did.

So we are able now to; 'proclaim that captives will be released'. We, like Jesus, are sent to set people free. There are so many things that hold people captive. Lies that promise the world but only deliver death. Fears that hold people fast. Captive to false ideas of success. Jesus has sent you to set people free.

When I know who I am, that I am loved and that I'm accepted and worthwhile, I'm able to live free. In your baptism you were linked with Jesus, where all these things

were given to you. You are a child of the Father. Your identity is sown up; now you have the freedom of giving it living expression. You are loved so now you have the freedom to love; not because there is anything in it for you, but simply because that's who you are. And in Jesus you know what love looks and tastes like; so you can live real authentic love, not a false version that will only leave you trapped. In Jesus you are free to live out your worth and change the environment around you; you're no longer a slave to what happens to you. In Jesus, you're free; free to be who you are.

Jesus also came 'that the blind will see'. In Jesus I'm not blind to Father's will. That means I can now do it. In Jesus I'm not blind to the Spirit's presence. That means I can now listen, follow

and do what he's saying and leading me into. I'm not just out there doing the best I can; I'm following Jesus, and he has twenty, twenty vision.

I know Jesus' thoughts, so I can share them with other people. I know the outcome of following and of not following.

Jesus' mission is our mission.

So I can share that with other people.

Jesus also came 'that the oppressed will be set free'. There are many things in life that want to oppress people. Crush them. Hold them down. Keep them enslaved. Who do you know who is oppressed at the present time?

Oppressed by other people's opinions of them. Oppressed by what they feel they should have achieved in life but haven't.

Oppressed by domineering people. Where do you see people being oppressed.

Good New, in Jesus you are able to set them free. As you bring them to know Jesus and they live under him as king in his kingdom they begin to experience freedom. Jesus never rules by oppression, but by inviting us to trust him, to trust the one who loves us and has given his life for us, that we might have life in all his fullness.

In Jesus we don't have oppression but freedom because here we are living in the safest of all places. In Jesus there is nothing to fear; just life to live, in Father's loving embrace, empowered by the Spirit.

And then Jesus concludes his mission statement with; 'the time of the LORD'S favour has come.' In Jesus we don't live