

make myself valued and important. When I chase after such things all I'm doing is losing myself, I'm tying myself up and then there's plenty of string attached.

Jesus is after you. After having an open and honest relationship, based on his love, a conversational relationship of love and affection.

So today I invite you to invite Jesus to cut through all that is robbing you of the life, the rich and full life he has given his life for you to live in and experience daily. Invite Jesus to cut through all those lies, that you discover Jesus for who he really is, and let him reveal who you really are, no strings attached. Let Jesus

reveal the loved child of God that you are, the child who brings great joy to your heavenly Father, the child he delights in, no strings attached.

Today I invite you to talk with Jesus, inviting him to reveal himself to you for who he really is, that you might know him in an intimate, personal way. Today I invite Jesus to reveal the person he sees you to be in his Father's love; the real you, not the supposed successful image. That's not you; invite Jesus to reveal the you he's given his life for, so that you might live in a genuine conversational relationship of love and

affection, experiencing in the depth of your soul the person, Jesus. And in the process Jesus will open you up to experience the real you; which is far more than I could ever hope to produce.

Let us pray. Jesus, I want to know you, the real you, no strings attached, and live in that relationship with you.

10 February 2019

NO STRINGS ATTACHED!

Isaiah 6:1-8



Today we heard the call of Isaiah. Isaiah sees a vision of Heaven, and fear strikes his heart.

Then God sends an angel to touch his lips with coals from the altar to remove his guilt, forgiving his sins, so he is prepared to speak God's word. Then Isaiah heard these words: 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' (Isa. 6:8)

If that was spoken to you, what your response be? If you encountered God in this way and then heard his call, what would your response be?

Let's hear Isaiah's response again; 'Here I am. Send me.' (Isa. 6:8)

When I get to this point in the story I like to think I'd have said the same thing; Jesus, here I am, send me. I get

this sense of enthusiasm; 'Yeh, let's go and save the world'.

Then I read on. Does anyone know what God called Isaiah to say to the people? I've often read up to Isaiah saying he'd go, but I haven't taken the time to read what it was that God wanted Isaiah to say.

Here's bit of a summary; "Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see... nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing." (Isa. 6:10)

At this point I'm wondering if Isaiah wants to change his mind. He asks God; how long this will go on? Here's the answer he got; "Until their towns are empty, their houses are deserted, and the whole country

is a wasteland." (Isa. 6:11)

Isaiah might be thinking; 'This isn't what I signed up for!' I'd be thinking; 'This isn't what I was expecting.' I was expecting to run in like a hero and save everyone.

God finishes with; "If even a tenth – a remnant – survive, it will be invaded again and burned. But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down, so Israel's stump will be a holy seed." (Isa. 6:13)

What do you think God was trying to say to his people through Isaiah? What do you think God is saying to us today through Isaiah? This message wasn't recorded so we could simply have an historic record; it is recorded because God is

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

seeking to speak into our lives, today.

becomes simply a means to an end.

birth, life, death and resurrection?

Ultimately Isaiah has a message of hope. The holy seed is Jesus.

What sort of relationship do you have with someone who simply sees you as a meal ticket; a means to their end. People suck up to you while they think there is something in it for them, but once they don't get what they

Jesus wasn't born so that he could be our ultimate product; 'Just add Jesus and you'll be wealthy and happy.' Somehow I don't think Jesus is at all interested in any such abusive relationships.

Unfortunately the people of Isaiah's day were hoping for something different; hoping for prosperity, for the good life. Anyone here hoping for prosperity, for the good life?

I know for sure he doesn't want to treat us that way. We're not some added extra so he can feel good about himself. Jesus certainly isn't out to

As we celebrate 'Harvest Thanksgiving' we could fall into the trap of thanking God for all the good things we have, leaving the focus on all the good things we have. Why is that a trap? Why might I be suggesting that, that is wrong? Isn't that what 'Harvest Thanksgiving' is all about; thanking God for what we have?

What sort of relationship does Jesus create?

want, they look elsewhere. Is that how you would describe friendship? Is that what you hope for in a close intimate relationship of love and affection?

use you for his own ends. Who would want to be in such a relationship?

The subtle trap is we end up turning God into a commodity; the ultimate commodity. If we say thank you we'll be blessed with the good life, we'll be prosperous. God

I don't think anyone wants to be a consumable product. That definitely isn't how I'd describe a close intimate relationship of love and affection.

Good News, Jesus, doesn't. That isn't what he came to create. Jesus has come to create a conversational relationship of love and affection, where we can be totally honest and open with each other, living in, and living out his supernatural love, quite naturally.

What sort of relationship does Jesus create? What sort of relationship has Jesus created through his

Creating fear and abuse are not on Jesus' agenda. That is why he

called Isaiah to let the people know he was going to destroy everything that was destroying them, the people he loved. That is true for today; Jesus seeks to destroy everything that would destroy the people he loves, that would destroy the relationship he has given his life to create.

that we can see him for who he really is. So that we can experience genuine love, his genuine love, with no strings attached.

When you read Jesus' story you'll find he comes graciously. That means he comes with no strings attached; he's come to reveal his true self to you, to help

them of the rich and satisfying life he wanted for them.

A life where they could know God, personally, for who he is, no strings attached. And then live in, and enjoy that personal relationship. That's Jesus' goal for you; that you might experience and enjoy his love of you, no

It is so easy to turn God into the fix-it man, and in the process we lose the real person. Losing the real person

Jesus comes, no strings attached.

means I lose his love and replace it with a commodity I consume to try and feel good about myself, about life.

you see your true self, so that you might join him in a person to person relationship which is open and honest, no strings attached.

strings attached, and in that loving relationship discover yourself, for who you truly are, no strings attached.

How easy it is to turn people into products to be consumed, to turn people into numbers to be processed. We end up with 'Human Resources' that are managed to produce profit for the shareholders. What sort of mindset help create?

I think that is a good definition of the word 'grace'. Jesus comes giving himself totally for you, motivated purely by his love for you, no strings attached.

So I'm not 'Pastor' Tim, as if I need a title to make myself important. That's why I hate such things as academic robs and all that pomp and ceremony; because they obscure the true me. Jesus loves Tim, no strings attached; warts and all, so that I can grow and mature in being the person he's given his life for me to be.

This is what Jesus seeks to destroy, so

Jesus call to Isaiah wasn't to destroy the 'Good Life', but to destroy and expose the lie that was robbing

I don't need a title, or wealth, or position, or other people's approval, or success, to