

forgiving grace, so that you might be growing in that wonderful relationship of love and affection he has created. Living true to yourself, because in Jesus, with Jesus, through Jesus more and more you can discover who you really are.

What freedom Jesus is inviting you to live in. Not controlled by other people's thoughts, or my fears of their thoughts. Not being callous to other people as I try to prove I'm not influenced by them. No in Jesus we have the wonderful freedom to live true to who we are in every situation. We have the wonderful privilege of shaping the world

around us, and not being putty in it's hands.

This week I again encourage you to share with Jesus the things you love; that you love about life, about the people you know, about him. And then invite Jesus to send the Spirit and reveal to you what he loves, what's on his heart. Invite Jesus to lead you into his life. Invite Jesus to speak; grab that first thought, then go and do it, all the time talking it over with Jesus.

Remember relationships are for living; and Jesus is keen for you to live life

with him; a rich and satisfying life. So be like Abraham, grab what God places on your heart and go do it. Live life. Live life with the author of life. Live life in Jesus' fullness.

This week share in your 4x4 group what Jesus gives you, reveals to you. Remember relationships are for living, and our 4x4 groups are simply a means to help us live life, live out this wonderful relationship we share with Jesus.

8 March 2020

GROWING IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS—2

Romans 4:1-5,13-17



Last week I finished with this challenge; I encouraged you to spend time talking and listening to Dad, your heavenly Father. To share with him the things you love; love about his creation, love about him, love about the people he's placed in your life. Sharing with Dad the passions he's placed on your heart.

How did that go?

I'm sure for those who invested the time in talking with our heavenly Dad about the loves in their life, their sense of intimacy with him would have been lived out and experienced. Those who forgot or got too busy, or like me just didn't do it, I'm sure your sense of intimacy with God didn't get a chance to flourish.

Then I invited you to do something radical;

ask Jesus what's on his heart, what he's passionate about and then listen. Grab that first thought, idea, impression, sense, emotion, picture, name you get and talk with Jesus about it. Then do it.

I got this clear picture of a role of duct tape! I'm still talking with Jesus about what that means. The next image I got was the tape over my mouth! I'm still talking with Jesus about where he wants me to keep silent.

When you invited Jesus to share from the heart, and then listened, what image, sound, feeling, impression, thought did the Spirit give you?

My desire is that we all grow in our relationship with Jesus; but for that to

happen we need to live it out.

That's what Abraham did; he received a word from God, and then he lived it out. Importantly he didn't do it to get God to like him but because God had already promised himself to Abraham. So Abraham sought to live out the relationship God created with him.

More and more I'm reminded that relationships are for living. They are not static things; relationships are dynamic. They are for exploring the adventure of life together.

Abraham could have said; God I believe you, and then stayed in Ur watching the TV. How would his relationship with God have grown or been

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

lived out if he'd stayed put?

Is Jesus, through the Spirit, prompting you to do something, to talk with someone, to give up something during this season of Lent – this season of prayer and fasting?

If the Spirit is prompting you and you do nothing, what effect do you think that will have on your relationship with him?

If I invite someone to join me in doing something I love and they ignore me, or just don't do anything, what effect do you think that will have on our relationship?

Amazingly Abraham left everything and ended up living in a tent; moving from place to place, but never having a place of his own. What an amazing act of trust Abraham lived out as he walked and talked with his God; our God.

Abraham trusted God's promise to him and even at 100yrs of

age he was expecting a child; God had promised. Sure there were ups and downs, a real struggle at times, but Abraham took God at his word and lived it out. Relationships are for living.

Abraham must have trusted God enough to have sex with his wife; at 90 plus, expecting a

Relationship are for Living.

child. If Abraham didn't get in the groove what would have happened? Relationships are for living.

Abraham didn't live to get brownie points of God so that he might get something. Abraham wasn't using God to get what he wanted. Have you ever done that? I sure have; sought to manipulate God to get what I want, believing I knew what was best.

Using people to get what you want I

wouldn't think is the best way to grow a healthy relationship of intimacy, of love and affection. Listening and responding to the other person would be a better formula.

Listening, responding, and then doing what is best for the other person, according to their needs at your expense; or could I say sacrificing yourself, is the way to be living out a relationship of intimacy, of love and affection.

That's Jesus way of living. He sacrificed himself doing what was best for who, so that who might benefit according to their needs at his expense? Jesus comes to live out this relationship of love and affection. Jesus comes and lives out his forgiving grace; giving his life on the cross so that we might be forgiven.

Forgiven means that you are now able to live in a relationship of love and affection with God, in Jesus, through the Spirit. Jesus has

opened the door to live this relationship, to share life together in every situation. Jesus forgives, removing the barriers so that we might experience the reality of his presence in our life. So that we might join him in his adventure of life.

What happens if I simply sit in front of the TV, hearing what Jesus is inviting me to join him in, but not moving?

Sadly I'm missing out on the best part of life!

Jesus is inviting me daily, through the Spirit, to join him in his adventure of life, in growing his kingdom, in rescuing people for life with him, in sharing his victory over the devil, what an amazing life Jesus is inviting us to share with him.

In the process we grow in our relationship with Jesus, and wonderfully Jesus also enables us to grow and share life with others of his loved

family. What a rich and satisfying life Jesus is inviting us to share with him, to actively live with him. What a rich and satisfying life Jesus is inviting you to share with him, to actively live with him.

Remember, relationships are for living, and Jesus has opened the door

Is Jesus, through the Spirit, prompting your?

wonderfully wide for us to live life with him, daily. Jesus invitation even involves talking about politics and religion, not just sport!

Jesus isn't demanding that we obey him or else, that would be to miss the point. Living scared, obeying to get some reward is missing the whole point. Jesus has come in person to share himself with you.

I don't need, or want any other reward. My heart's desire is to know Jesus for who

he is, simply because he's worth knowing for who he is. I don't need to be bribed.

If you have a relationship based on a bribe what happens when the bribe isn't there anymore?

Jesus doesn't want a relationship based on a bribe; amazingly he loves you, he wants to know you, because to him you're worth knowing for yourself; the person he made you to be.

Sadly outside of Jesus it is impossible to know myself; I end up playing games, putting on masks to impress, I try to create myself in what I think is a successful image. And the more I play, seek to impress, create my own image, the more I lose my true self, the person Jesus sacrificed his life for.

Thank God, in Jesus, you are forgiven. You can come to Jesus and be open and honest, confessing your sin, so that you might live daily in his