

Jesus gives a worth nobody can take from us; I don't have to destroy others to feel worthwhile like the Priests and Leaders. I don't have to oppress others like the soldiers. In Jesus, I have a worth that I can bless others with, treating them with that worth.

Jesus gives me a reason to live; I'm not aimlessly wandering around in a big bad world. I'm not a rebel trying to find a reason to live for. Living loved by Jesus, what a wonderful reason to live; extending Jesus kingdom, so that under his rule, by his power and authority other people are set free to discover life in all of Jesus presence; beyond their wildest dreams.

I invite you to look up Colossians 2v13-15, then chapter 3v1-17 and reflect on all that

Jesus has won for you. In him we have victory over sin, death and the devil, so that we might live intimately with Father, Son, Spirit, embraced by them, at one with them, living life with them, discovering ourselves through relationship with them. What freedom Jesus has won for you to enjoy and live in, now; and into the future.

I invite you to take time to pray, taking with Jesus about the areas in your life that still try to trap you, enslave you. Bring them to Jesus. Also share with him your response to his amazing sacrifice for you; where he fought for you.

Then make some time to invite Jesus to share with you his reflections on what he did at Easter. Invite him to speak and grab that first thought,

impression, sense, idea, picture, smell and talk with Jesus about it.

Then ask if the other person would like you to pray for them; then invite Jesus to share with you what he would say to them. Share what you get with them; don't seek to interpret it or understand it. It's not for you, it is for them, and Jesus knows how to speak to his loved brothers and sisters.

I now invite you to jot down a few thoughts on why we call this 'Good Friday'. Why it is a day of celebration, a day of victory, a day to rejoice and be glad. Jot your thoughts down and see who you might share them with.

God Bless

## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

10 April 2020

## GROWING IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS Good Friday



Welcome to Good Friday. Along with Beth we'll be exploring what makes this Friday good.

First I invite you to get out your bible, pen and pad to jot down your thoughts. Let's pray: Jesus today we invite you to send the Spirit to open our hearts and minds to you, to understand, to appreciate, to know why you went to the extreme of the cross. We invite you to speak to us; heart to heart, that we might grow in knowing you.

Now that you've got your pen and pad at the ready I've got a short video. As you watch this video be asking yourself what drives each person. What emotions would they be feeling, would you be feeling. What shapes Pilate's action, what drives the priests, how did Barabbas feel, what

about Mary, what expression to you see on the soldiers faces who punish Jesus.

I invite you to watch; it is graphic and hard to watch. Jesus crucifixion was a horrid event. (Watch video clip of Jesus condemned to die, Barabbas going free, and Jesus scourged.)

(Beth – what did you think of Pilate?)

This graphic depiction of Jesus crucifixion causes me to cringe at Pilate bending to the will of the crowd.

I don't know about you, but I can relate to that. I've lived by the voice of the crowd, of my mates, of wanting to do what would please others and win me favour. Sadly, at times I can see myself in Pilate.

Have you ever danced to the tune of the crowd? I often wonder why I have believed the crowd instead of Jesus. In Jesus, I'm God the Father's loved child in whom he delights. Yet when people criticize, compare, reject me, I believe them!

(Beth – what thoughts does Barabbas bring to you?)

I love seeing the image of Barabbas, for in him I see myself being set free, because Jesus is taking the wrap. I too am delighted, but I'm left asking myself; will I go on doing the same old, same old, or has this changed me.

(Beth – when you watched Jesus being scourged what emotions did that stir in you?)

I'm gripped by the soldiers who scourge

Jesus, for in them I see man's inhumanity to man. They beat another person to a pulp and it brings a smile to their face.

Did you notice how they are smiling, even laughing, almost oblivious to another human-beings suffering, which they're inflicting.

I find Jesus scourging brutal and sickening. I get a sense of righteous indignation, anger, but sadly they only depict one facet of who I am as a person. My words have wounded. My silence was meant to hurt; 'they deserved it, didn't they'. I've watched and smiled as another person has suffered, especially if they had first hurt me.

(Beth – what's your first thought on seeing Jesus in this clip?)

On a surface level I could understand Jesus being angry, resentful, bitter, even vengeful toward all these people who have mercilessly

sought to destroy him, physically, emotionally, seeking to make the mere thought of his name repulsive.

That's why the Priests and Leaders sought crucifixion, they didn't only want to kill Jesus, they wanted to make the mere thought of him repulsive. After all, everyone in Jesus day,

---

### Jesus doesn't fight with us but for us.

---

knew to be hung on a cross meant you were cursed of God.

What was driving the Priests and Leaders to such an horrific step?

(Beth – what would your first reaction be to someone who brutally attacked you?)

I'm not sure of all that was going on when Jesus was crucified, but for God to go to such an extreme indicates to me that it was monumental.

There I see Jesus coming to fight, not with me, but for me. And I'm no different to Peter who betrayed Jesus, or Pilate who played to the crowd, or the Priests and Leaders who acted out of envy and fear of losing their religion and their temple. I'm no different to Barabbas, a rebel, seeking to do it my way. I can see

myself in the soldiers, laughing, beating, not worried about a fellow person. After all they're doing their job; they're under orders, it's not their fault. I'm good at self-justification.

Jesus comes and take the worst humanity can throw at him; physically beaten, rejected and deserted, his reputation turned to trash – cursed of God.

And this is Jesus fighting for us, not against us.

Do you notice Jesus doesn't come out swinging in self-defence. I certainly would have been

tempted to, especially knowing I'd win. Could have Jesus beaten up all these people in defence of himself? Easily!

Jesus could have easily jumped of the cross, but what would that have done; only create fear. But a fear driven life is one of the things Jesus has come to free us from. So Jesus stays on the cross, not striking fear into our hearts but giving himself so that we might discover a new life.

A life shaped by Jesus, freedom in Jesus, rather than being a slave to my fears, my insecurities, my doubts.

What sort of world has our fears, envy, greed, insecurity, doubt helped create?

Jesus comes fighting for us, for you, literally giving his life for you. If someone gave their life for you what would you call that?

I invite you to pause and reflect on that thought.

I love that song that was played at the end of our video clip; Nothing but the blood of Jesus. The blood of Jesus is a metaphor for his life. Nothing but Jesus life can set me free for life with him, with God as my heavenly Father, with God as my closest companion – the Holy

---

### God isn't the problem...

---

Spirit. Jesus has fought and given his life that I might have life beyond my wildest dreams; that you might have life beyond your wildest dreams.

Good Friday reminds me that God isn't wasn't the problem; I am! We are! If you don't believe me look around you and see our inhumanity to each other; half the world starves as the other half die from over eating. And fear holds us trapped, not willing to give away our food

because we might become the poor, because I need a new car, I need to see that production, I need a bit of comfort in my life.

God isn't the world's problem, my playing God certainly is. I'm not qualified to play God, and I don't think you are either! But at times I do find myself doing it; what about you?

Jesus comes to fight for us, comes giving his life for us, that we might have life lived in him, with him. Jesus fights for us that we might live free in him, not slaves to fear, greed, envy, insecurity, pride, arrogance, uncertainty, self.

Jesus has taken the worst we could throw at him, and gives us the best he has to offer; himself, life with God as Father, the Spirit's presence with us now. Jesus gives us an identity nobody can take from us; in Jesus I'm not a slave to the crowd.