

give practical, everyday guidance. He's alive and well, and keen to be involved.

And keen for you to be involved with him. Amazing!

Of course I don't always hear correctly. Sometimes I impose my thoughts or what I want, or read into what Jesus says using how the world looks at things. But what's the worst that could happen; I could be wrong. Surprise, surprise, I've been wrong plenty of times; more that I care to remember, using my own reasoning, and other people's good advice. But with Jesus, being wrong isn't a problem; he's thought of that already. Just ask him to forgive you,

being open and honest with him; and try again, seeking to live his way.

Just last week I read this wonderful passage from Paul's letter to the community of faith in Rome. He was talking with them about right living. He wrote; "Instead clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom.13:14)

Isn't that a great gift from God; being clothed in his presence, not distant, or remote, or aloof, or not interested. God, in Jesus, what's to clothe you in his presence; which is what happens when we talk to him. Talk to him today. Talk to Jesus today.

I invite you to do that now; talk with Jesus about what is concerning you, what is on your heart. Talk with Jesus about what you are thankful for. Talk with Jesus about the people in your life; the good, the bad and the ugly! Share from your heart.

Then invite Jesus to talk, and listen. Grab those first thoughts and run with them. Enter conversation with Jesus through them. Ask Jesus to speak and then listen; be aware of your thoughts, your feelings, your senses, the images that come to mind, the people that Jesus sends your way. Ask Jesus to speak and grab those first thoughts and let the conversation begin.

7 June 2020

## CULTIVATING MY PERSONAL TIME WITH JESUS—1 SOAP



Last week's talk finished with; "Talk to Jesus today."

Jesus gave his life, literally, so you could talk with him today; friend to friend. In a relationship of love and affection, where you trust him with your deepest thoughts and feelings. "Talk to Jesus today."

Jesus died on the cross that you might be saved for life with God, as one of his children, whom he loves and delights to share his life with. Because of Jesus I no longer talk with some unknown but I come to my heavenly Father; Dad. In Jesus we have intimacy with our heavenly Father. "Talk to Jesus today."

And Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to be with you, so that today you can be living out this relationship. You are not alone. You are not an orphan. God, the Holy Spirit, is with you, now. "Talk to Jesus today."

Talk to him today.

I hope you notice this is something everybody can do. This isn't some special religious act; it is sharing your hopes and dreams with Jesus. It is talking with Jesus about your fears, inviting him in. It is letting Jesus be involved in all areas of your life as you talk with him about them. Jesus talks football. Jesus talks money. Jesus talks about sex, drugs and rock-n-roll. Jesus is keen to talk

with you about your family, your marriage, your children, those stressful relationships you have. Jesus talks about life; even politics and religion!

I want Jesus to be guiding me, leading me, growing me, in all areas of life; so I'm going to talk with him about all areas of my life. What about you?

To cultivate this wonderful personal relationship that Jesus has made possible I invest time in reading and meditating on the bible. This is not some religious act to impress God; reading to impress God would be a total waste of time.

I read to hear from Jesus. I read because I know the bible

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

contains God's clear word. And when I'm attuned to hearing him there I'm attuned to hear him as he speaks through his creation, through the people he brings into my life, through the circumstances I encounter.

I know God is speaking all the time, using a myriad of means; even dreams. When was the last time you had a discussion with Jesus about a dream.

On the day of Pentecost Peter quoted the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God, says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.'" (Acts 2:17) I fit into the category of 'Old Men'. God hear says he

speaks through my dreams; maybe not all of them, but he uses dreams. Talk to him today about your dreams.

Talk to Jesus today. And as you talk with Jesus, expect a response. Grab the first

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### Talk to Jesus Today.

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thought you get, and carry on the conversation. Why wouldn't it be Jesus? After all he's the one inviting us to pray. He's the one who has given his life that we can enter conversation with him. Why wouldn't it be Jesus? So I begin the day reading the bible, expectantly; seeking to hear.

Here I'm not narrowing things down to a voice; but a response, be that a feeling, an emotion, a thought, an awareness of what is happening, an image, someone's face or name. I'm expectant, of a response for the Jesus I'm talking with I know is alive and keen to

talk. Why else would he have died on that cross? Why else would he have sent the Spirit?

A few weeks back I was reading 1Chronicles. Not a part of the bible I go to much, if ever, but the reading plan I follow had it down and I had the time.

I follow the 'SOAP' reading plan. 'SOAP' stands for; Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer. It is just an aid I find helpful. The idea is to share with others; I do it weekly. Being in a

team helps me to follow through.

I was reading Chronicles when this verse jumped out at me: "...because we failed to ask God how to move it properly." (1 Chr. 15:13)

This is part of the story where king David sought to move the 'Ark of the Covenant' into Jerusalem. But initially things go very wrong; people die! David did what seemed best to him. Putting the ark on a cart seemed like a good idea, he just hadn't bothered to check what God thought, or even check what God had clearly said.

It got me thinking; where was I doing what seemed logical to me, without taking the time to ask God. Here king David failed to ask God. What a privilege we have; we are free to

ask God, and he will lead us. Maybe not how we first thought, but he will respond, he will guide, he will feed us.

So I've been asking God regularly what we are to do once the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. I could do what we've

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### Jesus is keen for you to be involved with him.

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always done, which seems sensible; but is it where God is seeking to lead us; his people of faith? So I'm asking; seeking to hear, seeking to be aware.

Isn't it great; no matter what you're facing, you can ask Jesus how? Once I was talking with a building who conveyed he was faced with how to install a kitchen. Not his specialty; so he ask

God, took what he was given and went for it. His boss loved it!

Isn't it great; no matter what you're facing, you can ask God, and he'll respond. His response to my previous example could have been; 'ask someone'.

This man was open, expectant, took what God gave him and did it.

From 1 Chronicles I was also reminded of how God's people cast lots to get direction from God. In 1 Chronicles 25:8, lots were cast to see who would be on duty at the temple. Amazing, God using dice to direct his people.

Have you ever had a choice between two or three things and you just couldn't separate them; like what car to buy? Ask Jesus, cast lots, and go for that one. I believe in a God, in Jesus, who is able to