

I know one thing Jesus spent lots of time doing; talking with his Father. Then Jesus was able to do what he saw his Father doing, and say what he heard his Father saying. Through The Spirit we too are able to live out Jesus' example. Speak with Father; and do what he is doing, and say what he is saying.

Do you notice we don't have a pattern to follow but a person to talk with? To talk about life and then trusting him, do what he says. Just like Abraham.

So I invite you to take time asking Jesus to bring to mind some of the times you partnered

with him in saving the world; or at least giving a drink to the thirsty. Take time to reflect with Jesus.

Then I invite you to ask Jesus; through The Spirit, to show you what or who he is calling you to join him in talking to this week. Ask Jesus to speak and grab that first thought.

This might lead into a longer conversation. But ask, expecting a response, and then go and do it with Jesus.

You can trust him.

And a side product will be that your relationship

with Jesus will blossom, as together you seek to save the lost, destroying the work of the enemy, letting his supernatural love flow naturally through you.

Talk to Jesus today. Experience the reality of his loving presence. Step out into life walking and talking with him. Boldly enter the fray as you seek to find the lost and breathe Jesus' life into them. Enjoy, walking and talking with Jesus today as you share working in Father's passion; letting people know and experience his love for them, personally.

14 June 2020
CULTIVATING MY PERSONAL TIME WITH JESUS—2
Genesis 18:1-15

Over these weeks I'm reflecting on 'Cultivating my personal time with Jesus'. Knowing Jesus, not just knowing about him, but knowing Jesus is my passion. I'm not interested in just a bunch of facts and figures; I want to know the person, personally.

As I was reflecting on this desire, I received this daily devotion, entitled 'Knowing God'.

"When the religious (spirit) is operating, knowing about God substitutes for knowing God. And therefore, teaching is exalted. Church feels like a seminar—could be intellectual, could be motivational. Good content is what matters. Doctrine is fiercely defended. Members can explain to you theories of the atonement, or seven steps to success, but can't name one intimate encounter they've had with Jesus.

Not once in their lives have they heard him speak to them. I've met heads of Christian education departments, chaplains, and seminary faculty who by their own admission don't know Jesus personally.

You can talk about sunshine and live your life underground; you can even go to the sea but never dive in. A great deal of what is adamantly taught about Jesus is taught by people who frankly don't know him very well.

Question: Are your leaders close friends of God? People who actually know and experience this Jesus, helping you to know and experience him?"

From Beautiful Outlaw by John Eldredge

Over the same period of time I read these verses from Paul's letter to the community of faith in Ephesus; "I pray... may

you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you EXPERIENCE the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully..." (Eph. 3:18,19)

When I hear stuff like this, one of my first reactions is to feel guilty. I've been one of those guys who has talked about Jesus without talking with him. I find it easy to go on a guilt trip.

Anyone else find themselves going on guilt trips.

I've discovered something interesting about 'Guilt Trips'; Jesus is never the tour guide!!!

I'd encourage you not to go on one. My goal is to walk and talk with Jesus, in all of life. To know the real person, personally. If you feel

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

you've got some room for growth in this area, isn't it great that Jesus is keen to share, to reveal his true character to you. Jesus is keen to walk and talk with you, growing a more intimate relationship with you.

Surprise, surprise, Jesus is more passionate about growing this intimate relationship that any of us; he's give his life to make it a living reality.

Does Jesus want you to experience the reality of his person? Does Jesus want you to know him, not just know about him?

That would be a resounding YES!

Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong in knowing facts and figures about Jesus. In fact that's a good thing, it's just not the goal. Jesus has revealed himself to us so that we might know him personally for who he really is. Jesus has revealed the facts and figures so our relationship with him is built on truth; the truth about him and the truth about me.

Jesus' passion is that you experience his love for you. That you live in it. That you live it out, because you're living in his amazing love of you. Loved people can love; and in Jesus you are loved, personally, intimately. Jesus' passion is that you live loved, that you know it deep in your soul, that you experience the

Does Jesus want you to experience his presence?

reality of his person in your daily life.

I like reflecting on Abraham; a man who walked and talked with God. God wasn't a theory, but he experienced the reality of God in his life. Abraham took God at his work and that shaped his whole life.

What would it take for you to leave the comforts of home and go off to a foreign land? Abraham took God at his word, and joined him in his plan, as they worked together.

I've noticed one of the best ways to get to know a person is to work alongside them. To have a shared passion, and then do it, together.

Have you ever noticed how you get to know someone when you share a task with them?

What task, thinking in the broadest sense, is Jesus inviting you to join him in?

God invited Abraham to join him in saving the world. I don't think Abraham understood

everything God was going to do, but one thing is for sure, he trusted God. Abraham trusted the one who spoke, who he experienced in his life. Abraham took God at his word and left behind what he knew, for what was uncertain. Why?

Abraham is told that he's going to have a son, and from this son he will have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. In Genesis 18:1-15 Abraham is reminded of this promise; he's told that next year – by the way he'll be 100 then –

he'll have a son born to him and Sarah.

How do you think Abraham's experience of God grew when that son was born? Who was laughing then?

His Son was named Isaac which means; he laughs. Sarah laughed at the thought of having a child in her nineties. But God had the last laugh; Isaac was born.

Isaac was born, not an idea, not a movement, but a living breathing person. God's love, his passion for people, was being lived out, not talked about.

I believe God wants the same for you. Jesus died on the cross and rose again, so that his passion for you could be lived out in your life; experienced in your life.

God invites you to join him in saving the world. I don't understand everything God is doing, or going to do, but one thing is for sure, I can trust Jesus. Jesus does what he says, just check out his track record. He's trustworthy.

God wants you to know him. God's desire is to cultivate your personal time with Jesus, so he's called you to join Jesus in saving the world.

This passage from John's account of Jesus' life always amazes me; "Jesus said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.'" Then he breathed on them and

What is Jesus calling you to join him in?

said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" (John 20:21-23)

Did you hear that call to join Jesus in his work; 'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you'.

As you join Jesus in this work, you'll no doubt get to know him better. It's what happens when you work alongside of another person, in a shared passion. You get to experience life together.

That's Jesus passion; that you get to experience life together with him. And through that shared experience you grow in knowing Jesus, personally.

It's his passion, and did you notice he's equipped you for it; he gave the Holy Spirit – God's personal presence. He gave the authority to forgive sin. You now are empowered and authorised to speak Jesus' words of freedom, of liberation from sin, death and the devil.

What is Jesus calling you to do today as you join with him?

You may encounter a person who is thirsty? What could you do?

You may be with someone feeling down? What could you do?

Jesus may bring across your path a person who is alone, angry, hurt, bitter. What could you do?

What is Jesus calling you to do today as you join with him?