

I pray we all diligently read God's word daily; meditate on it, reflect on it, wrestle with it, for that will help us hear Jesus all the clearer. But don't substitute words for The Word. My goal, my passion, my destination is to be following Jesus, listening to his voice, as we together explore and live in Father's heart.

Over the next weeks we'll be exploring how we can do that as Father's family. Pastor Peter Steicke has been invited to come and help open our hearts and minds so that we might be 'Moving Forward as Father's Family'. That excites me.

'Moving Forward as Father's Family', in other word, sharing life with Jesus in a

small group of people, as we together, in a more intimate way explore the 'Promised Land'; Father's heart.

Obviously this won't replace larger gatherings; after all a community is made up of families, families who work together for the good of all.

We won't discover the 'Father's heart' if we resent others, get disappointed because we don't get our way, or if we force our opinion on others. Together we face the joy of listening to Jesus, following his lead, discovering 'Father's heart' in a family of faith and as part of a community of faith in Jesus.

I'm excited to see and hear where Jesus leads by the Spirit. I definitely want to be exploring 'Father's Heart' with Jesus and with you. There's no place I'd rather be.

Jesus I ask that you give us your wisdom, open our hearts to hear you and to follow, even when it looks strange, not familiar. In all of this I desire to hear your voice, so I can speak what you say, and do what you do; to Father's glory, honour and praise.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

26 July 2020

WHAT'S OUR DESTINATION? JESUS VOICE LEADS US THERE.



Last week we looked at the life of Abraham. Paul was using him as an example of faith. Paul wrote about Abraham; "He went without knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8)

In a small way I lived that out, this week; I went without knowing how to get there. I was going to a friend of mine who recently has shifted. The area he lives it is totally confusing to me. You'll never guess how I got there.

I simply listened to a voice and did what it said. 'At the next round about take the second exit. Take the next turn left. Drive for 3 kilometres. I simply did what my sat nav told me; and when I took a wrong turn it lead me in

repentance, so I got back on track.

In a sense, wasn't that how Abraham got to where he was going? Not a sat nav, what did Abraham have; God nav! God spoke, Abraham listened and acted. And when he went off track God lead his back as he continued to speak into his life.

I don't think we are to be any different to Abraham; I believe God is speaking into our lives, guiding and directing us, in all areas of life. If I let him.

I was looking at an article entitled 'Strategic Prayer' and this caught my eye; "Praying without ceasing and being a house of prayer is being in God's presence, listening and displaying trust

while we work and live our lives in this world. We do not need to be focused on religious agenda's to be listening to Father. Prayer is so much more than religious encounters and moments. God came and walked with Adam. I wonder what they talked about? He came and visited Abraham. Moses was a governor of the people and dealt with many issues outside of religion. All these men and many others written of in the bible needed God's heart for them to carry out the professions or duties they walked. Prayer is about life and living our lives with God. It is for ALL" (Neil Gamble – fathershandministries.com)

I was left asking myself; 'Is this the shape of my life'? I certainly want it to be. My desire is to have God as the one who leads my life, for the destination I'm after is Father's heart.

Good News, that's also where Father wants you to be living. That is Father's destination for you; all we need do is listen to his voice and follow. Invite Jesus to send Spirit to guide you.

I love this promise of Jesus; when Jesus gives a promise what does he always do? He keeps it. Jesus always does what he says; he's definitely got the power to back up what he promises. I love this promise; "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you..." (James 1:5)

Jesus passion is that our life is a continual

conversation with him. Continually chatting. Continually listening. Continually following his promptings, his leadings, his advice, his passion. For as we continually walk with Jesus he'll bring us to that wonderful destination; Father's heart.

What part of your life would Jesus want lived outside of Father's heart?

In Jesus, through the Spirit, we'll discover ourselves living there; Father's heart. Last week I touched on these wonderful words of Jesus; 'As the Father sent me I now send you.' (John 20:21) What part of Jesus life was lived outside of Father's heart? NONE!

Does Jesus keep his word?

Without a shadow of doubt. So if he says he has sent you as

he was sent, what part of your life would he want lived outside of Father's heart? NONE!

After all, you are, in Jesus, without a shadow of doubt, Father's child, whom he loves, the delight of his life. What a wonderful place to live from. You are the delight of Father. You are his loved precious child.

That being true, when wouldn't Father be listening to you, seeking to share his life with you. When wouldn't Jesus be 'interceding' for us. Father is always listening. Jesus is always in conversation with us, because in him it is who we are; it is who you are, all the time, in every situation.

That's the destination Jesus is seeking to lead us into, and then walk with us like Abraham, all around the 'Promised Land' discovering more and

more of it. Enjoying it. Finding our life in it. My 'Promised Land', our 'Promised Land' is Father's heart, Jesus love, the Spirit residing in us.

Can this be done if I don't hear from Jesus? Can I go without continually hearing and listening to Jesus if I'm exploring the 'Promised Land' with him?

Of course not.

Jesus knows I have no idea if left to myself. I'll get confused, bamboozled, Cond in no time. Without a sat nav I can't even find my way to my mates place; what hope would I have of finding God's heart, left to myself? NONE.

Thank God, I'm not left to myself, and neither are you. Wonderfully as Jesus puts it, we are God's Temple and God's Temple is a house of prayer – that's continual

conversation with God. We get to hear his voice. That's what Jesus said; 'My sheep' do what? 'My Sheep, hear My voice'.

As a community of faith, if we are to be all that Jesus calls us to be, what would we want to be doing? Listening to him.

Jesus lived listening to Father.

Following his lead. Talking with him. Be open to his prompts, his dreams and visions, asking for wisdom, seeking to be open to Spirit's lead.

Of course that's how Jesus lived; he listened to Father. So Jesus says; 'I only do what I see my Father doing, and say what I hear my Father saying'. Jesus isn't meant to be the exception, but a reflection of who we are, or who you are.

So you to; being sent like Jesus, can ask and see and hear, then follow, walking into all of life in Father's loving embrace; the good, the bad and the ugly.

The thought struck me that the early church – let's not use that word, let's rather say Jesus early community of faith – they didn't have what we call the New Testament. How do you think they were able to do what Father did and say what Father says, just like Jesus?

Was it because Jesus was speaking, and through the Spirit, they were listening?

Even after the New Testament was written people didn't own one until recently, but Jesus was speaking, and through the Spirit they were listening – hence walking through life with Jesus.