

When you get to heaven, don't be surprised but you won't be using a hymn book to sing praises to God. You'll be person to person, living out that wonderful intimate relationship. I won't argue over liturgy verses no liturgy; I'll be celebrating life together with you living out Father's rhythms of grace. We'll be dancing Father's dance of life.

And I want as many people to join me there as possible; Ford owners, Collingwood supporters, all the tax collectors and those who have sold their souls to make money. All liberated by Jesus, living in his power and authority, discovering life lived to the full in his presence. I want

everyone to be there. How about you?

That is why we are seeking to invite everyone to be involved in a home group, where we get to begin living out that relationship of intimacy in an intimate environment.

This week invite Jesus to lead you to two or three others to form a group. This week invite Jesus to bless your group that it is a living expression of his personality. This week be living by Jesus power and authority, going out to grow his kingdom, in his power and authority.

I invite you to repent this week, asking Jesus to reveal and heal. Reveal where you've been doing it your way so that he might heal you, soften your heart, that you rejoice in living life his way.

I pray you go out in Jesus power and authority declaring his kingdom, proclaiming his kingdom. I ask Jesus to give you his love, wisdom, courage and boldness to risk everything for him, that some may come to eternal life through your witness. That is what Jesus has empowered and authorised you to do.

27 September 2020

WHOSE POWER AND AUTHORITY

Matthew 21:23-32



Our reading for today is a classic conflict between Jesus and the establishment. Jesus is rocking the boat, and they don't like it.

Who likes it when someone rocks their boat? I don't!

Jesus rides into Jerusalem as King, and then enters the temple courts and teaches. I'm sure the establishment were thinking; 'Who does this guy think he is? Who's he to tell us what to do? We're the leaders, he should do what we say.'

The establishment were there to preserve the traditions, to maintain the temple building; they didn't want to lose their temple and their kingdom. After all if you rocked the boat too much the Roman occupying force might come and shut everything down.

The establishment didn't want to accept Jesus. They wanted to preserve things as they were, but what eventually happened. In 70AD; that's less than 40 years after Jesus built his new temple. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans.

What's happened to Jesus' new temple? It has been growing over the last 2,000yrs. And it will never be destroyed; the people Jesus gave his life for will never be destroyed. Jesus will return, raising all those who have placed their lives in his hands. Raise them to join him in life lived in Father's loving embrace.

The writing was on the wall, but the establishment of Jesus' day didn't want to accept it, they didn't

want to change. But change came anyway!

Jesus confronts these stubborn people, asking them why they refused to repent; that's change. Let's hear Jesus' words again; "Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes (aren't they all the wrong sort of people?) are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you (remember Jesus road into Jerusalem as king. His crucifixion is a coronation). For John *the Baptist* came to you to show you the way of righteousness (that's being in a right, living, vibrant, relationship with God), and you did not believe him, **BUT** the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him." (Matt. 21:32)

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

What was Jesus after; what the establishment offered or people's lives being changed? People being set free from what was robbing them of life; that's what Jesus was after and is still after today.

Thank God, Jesus came into the world to save us. I certainly need saving. Left to myself I'd be just like the establishment of Jesus' day, stubborn, refusing to change my direction, seeking to preserve what I thought was the good life.

Thank God Jesus comes with the offer to repent, to change my direction, and walk with Jesus. To walk with Jesus as king, living in his kingdom, being part of his temple. Thank God we all have the wonderful opportunity to repent, to change our direction, living life with Jesus in a relationship of love and affection with Father. Living in a conversational relationship where we talk intimately with him

daily. Where we get to live out Father's supernatural love, quite naturally.

This is what Jesus gave his life for. This is the heart beat of Jesus' kingdom. And he has the power and authority to backup what he says.

The establishment of

Jesus is KING!

Jesus' day asked the right question when they challenged his authority to do what he was doing.

If my authority rests on what I feel comfortable with, what I like doing, what I want, I'm in big trouble. I don't have the power or authority to impose my will, and neither do you.

The establishment of Jesus day sought to impose their will. How well did that work for them? You can go and view the pile of rubble

that is still in Jerusalem today. You won't see a glorious building, or be part of a life giving celebration. You'll find yourself on a site of destruction and division.

I've noticed that when people have tried to impose their will, using their power and authority, it never works

well. You have destruction and division; that is how I'd describe much of our human history. The writing is on the wall; I

don't have the power or the authority to impose my will on anyone, let alone the world.

I've noticed that when people bully others to get their own way you end up with destruction and division. That certainly isn't the life Jesus gave his life for.

Good News; Jesus is KING!

Good News; Jesus has the power and authority to reign. Great news, Jesus uses his power and authority to bless

you, not to impose his will, not to bully you. Jesus is no bully, he doesn't have to be, he's got the power and authority to set us free, to liberate you for life; for life with Father as his loved children in whom he rejoices.

And when Jesus declares you a loved child of God, that is what you become, because of his power and authority.

I did a reality check on my power and authority the other day. I declared my bank balance to grow to five million dollars. Just think of all the good I could do. Who'd like to guess how much my bank balance grew? My power and authority achieved, nothing!

When Jesus speaks, what he says happens; he has the power and the authority. The created world is a reminder to me of Jesus power and authority. Jesus spoke and it came into being,

and we enjoy that world today.

I find this encounter between Jesus and the establishment as rather sad. They held such potential. They had the words of God. They had the temple. But by the time Jesus came they had become totally inward focused. It was for them, there wasn't

When Jesus speaks, what he says happens.

room for tax collectors or prostitutes to discover life and freedom. They had become the guardians of the traditions, and they used their power and authority to keep it that way.

They killed Jesus. They scorned the tax collectors and prostitutes. After all they were right; or at least they thought they were. But their way only lead to death and destruction.

Maybe they should have asked themselves where there authority came from?

Jesus authority is from his Father. Jesus walks in harmony with his Father. They both have the same passion; seeing you come to know them in an intimate relationship of love and affection, in a

conversational atmosphere. That is what Jesus has made possible through his birth, life, death and resurrection; not forgetting the fact that right now he sits enthroned in heaven ruling his kingdom.

Jesus empowers us to now go out and proclaim his kingdom; declaring the 'Good News' that Jesus reigns and you too can become a citizen of heaven.

Jesus today is inviting us to repent. To repent of using our power and authority, or influence in people's lives for things that don't matter, that won't last.