

person who can breathe life into the situation. In Jesus my mistakes, stupidity, resentment doesn't shape me, Jesus does. And in Jesus I am able to seek forgiveness and live forgiven.

So I love the Gospel reading for today because it reminds me that I can, in Jesus, live different. In Jesus I have the Spirit present with me so that I can grow and mature living true to who I am in him.

What a wonderful difference Jesus empowers you to live.

I pray we all live Jesus' difference this week, not modelling the world around us, or being the produce of our mistakes or perceived successes, but living true to who we are in Jesus, in every situation. I pray you live Jesus' difference into your living as it flows from his heart through your heart. What a wonderful difference Jesus has come to create.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

16 February 2020

SAVED FOR LIFE—TODAY & TOMORROW

Matthew 5:21-37



Today I've got some exciting news.

Who was excited by the Gospel reading for today: "if you are even angry with someone (I think I've done that), you're subject to judgment." But wait, it gets better; "If you call someone and idiot (I think I might have gone beyond idiot a few times) you're in danger of the fires of hell." (Matt. 5:21,22)

Did that excite you?

I don't think I'll go on to the one on lust, or breaking your promises.

Do you want to know why I find this reading exciting?

Let me tell you. I find this reading exciting because Jesus is revealing that what is impossible for me on

my own – and if you don't believe it is impossible, Jesus is saying; 'think again you angry one, you who makes promises you don't keep.' Think again.

If we could do it on our own, what a different world we'd live in; no bullying at school, no road rage – anyone participate in that? The simple reality is we don't have what it takes, because if we did the world would be a very different place.

But Jesus doesn't reveal this to make us feel guilty, or get depressed. Not at all; Jesus reveals this because he's got what it takes to make the changes needed in our lives.

That's beginning to sound good to me.

Are there areas in your life that you are struggling with; people you're not looking all that favourably on, emotions that are a challenge? I think that's all of us; good news, Jesus has got what it takes so that we can change, so that we can live and respond differently.

That excites me; because I want to be the person Jesus has made possible through his life, death and resurrection. I want to be the person Jesus has dreamed possible. That excites me.

But here I have to be careful because it is so easy to put the cart before the horse.

How often have you read the commandments or this quote from Jesus

and taken it as what you have to do to be right with god? If I do this and this and this then I'll be a righteous person, then I'll have my life together. I've got the list, all I have to do is follow it and then God will like me.

Sadly that is the way the Pharisees of Jesus day thought; but it didn't go all that well for them.

What made the Children of Israel God's special people? Was it what they did, or was it something else that shaped what they did?

The Children of Israel are God's special people because of his promise to Abraham, and that is what shaped who they were and what they did. The point being the promise came first, then the Children of Israel could live true to who they were. Without the promise, without

God's presence, they wouldn't have been God's special people, no matter what they did.

Without God's presence there would have been no way they could have lived in a personal relationship of love and commitment, trusting him with their

I want to be the person Jesus has dreamed possible.

lives. Trusting him with their economics, their morality, their politics, their family life, their farming practices. Everything they did became a living reflection of God's presence among them.

That's what made them different.

So what makes us God's children whom he loves and delights in; what we do or something else?

Just like the Children of Israel it is God's promise; it is God's commitment to us. The commitment he lived out in Jesus, through his life, death and resurrection. I don't think Jesus is going to change his mind seeing he has already given his life to make us, to make you part of God's family. A loved child in God's family. A chip off the old block.

Jesus has placed within you the capacity to love as you are loved. To forgive because you are forgiven. Jesus has given us the Spirit; God's very presence with us. And because we have God's presence we have what it takes to live out the lifestyle Jesus presents. The lifestyle Jesus presents is simply and expression of who he is. Jesus always lives true to who he is. So when Jesus sends the Spirit to be with us we too have the

capacity to live true to who we are.

Who we are shapes what we do. Who we are in Jesus defines our identity. Who we are in Jesus determines our values, it sets our direction for life. And because we have the Spirit's presence we have the power and authority to live it out.

That's what excites me; in Jesus I have the power and authority to live into expression his very nature. I live intimately with Jesus, and that wonderful relationship of love and affection which is lived out in the atmosphere of conversation finds expression in my life.

That's what makes us, makes you, different.

Not because I have the ability but simply because I'm living in, with and through God's presence in

the person of the Spirit. I'm not simply going off doing my own thing. I'm living from the presence of God, and his life finds expression in what I do, to his glory, honour and praise.

That empowers you to be different. Your life is no longer an expression of sin, or

Do you know the easiest way to live a life shaped by Jesus?

loss, or what you can achieve in your own strength. Thank God for that!

In Jesus you are empowered to be different. Your life is now an expression of God's love and faithfulness, of God's character. As a Christian, Jesus has re-created you in his image. What a wonderful difference we get to live.

Yes Jesus does want us to live moral lives; righteous lives, holy

lives. That means Jesus has empowered us to live out his personality in our lives. To give living expression to his love in our lives, in our living. Jesus has given his life that we might be different; not sin controlled, but shaped by him.

Do you know the easiest way to live a life shaped by Jesus? Talk with him; daily. About everything; and then do what he says. Grab that first thought and go for it, believing it is from the Spirit.

And if you do find you've made a mistake, no problem, you talk with Jesus about it. You admit it. Invite him in so that he can sort it out. You confess your sin, your hurt, your need, your failure, inviting him in and then seek to walk in harmony with him.

So when I get angry and kill someone with my words, I have the