

that moment and sowing within then the seed that there is hope in our world, hope in Jesus.

And let's seek to plant the seed of God's word in our lives as we regularly read the bible, sharing with others what the Holy Spirit is saying to us, seeking to nurture and grow each other in Christ Jesus.

As well as a seed, we have a little card to remind you to plant the seed of Jesus' presence in your everyday life, so that other people might be saved; knowing they are loved and precious to God, growing in that wonderful fertile ground of Jesus' love,

grace, mercy and forgiveness. Not growing the best they can but the best Jesus can do.

I'm excited to see what can happen. But what's the first step?

Let us pray.

Jesus thank you for planting yourself in our life, in our world, in our history, so that we might be forgiven and loved by God the Father, having the wonderful hope of life lived with you, as the Father's precious, loved children, with whom the Father is excited to share his life with.

Thank you for planting yourself in our lives.

Thank you for planting

the Holy Spirit in our lives so that we don't go it alone, but right now have the joy of sharing life with you in your loving, caring, supportive relationship.

Help us to plant these seeds, as reminders of the great seed you've given us, the seed of your word. Give us the loving, caring, supportive environment we need to plant your word and grow it; give us the desire and the healthy daily habit of reading the bible, being open to hear from you, so that we might be daily living life with you, to your glory, honour and praise.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

Edmund 0429041957



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

30 August 2009

DO WHAT JESUS SAYS

James 1:17-27



How do you feel when someone makes a promise but doesn't follow through? I know as a husband and as a father, when I make a promise I want to follow through. What promises have you made in life?

There's one thing I know for certain when it comes to Jesus; he keeps his word. If Jesus says he'll do it, you can bet your life on it. When God makes a promise he keeps it. To put it simply; he does what he says.

So today James is reminding us that in Jesus our new nature is to keep God's word, and do what he says. That's how we stay true to our new nature in Jesus. God, in Jesus is always true to his word.

So James writes; "Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:22)

James uses the image of a seed; "humbly accept the word planed in you, which can save you." (James 1:21b)

What incredible potential there is in a seed. From one seed you can potentially start a forest. From a few seeds you can feed a nation.

If I gave each of you a pumpkin seed, at harvest time how many seeds would you have?

If the seed was still in your pocket, you'd still have, one. If you took the risk of planting it, watering it, looking after it, you could have several pumpkins each with many more seeds. Seeds you could plant

for next season and get an even greater crop, with the potential of even greater crops into the future. It could all start; where? From one simple seed.

But what's the first thing you need to do?

You could say this is exciting, let's see how many pumpkins we can grow. This should be fun. I've got a patch of soil at home where I could plant it, and I've got the water. I'm keen to see what grows from this seed. I'd like to see how many pumpkins I can multiply this one seed into over five years. This will be great, not only seeds, but pumpkins to feed others with or to sell and help others people. This is sounding better all the time. I like pumpkin soup.

But what will happen to that amazing potential if I don't plant the seed and water it, a pulling out the odd weed? What will happen if I don't plant and nurture that seed?

James reminds me that God's word is like a seed. What potential there is in that seed.

Not just to grow a few pumpkins but as James reminds us, to save people. To save your life from chasing after the wind. To save you from wasting the amazing potential our Heavenly Father has created within each of us. To save our relationships so that they bear the fruit of God's very love. What a wonderful, exciting harvest to reap; being loved and loving each other just like God does in Jesus.

Notice the seed God plants is his word; and that word is a person. That's how John began his account of Jesus'

life: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) And God always keeps his word. God in Jesus hasn't planted a bunch of rules and regulations in us, he's come in person.

What happens when

The seed God plants is his Word: Jesus

you plant dead things, like a rock in the ground? What would you reap if you planted a rock? Jesus doesn't plant rules and regulations but he plants his love for us, he plants his very person in the person of the Holy Spirit, so that he might reap a wonderful harvest of people who reflect his character; loving each other as they are loved.

People saved from acted because of what

they don't have, but joyfully and generously giving because of what they do have. They don't have to prove themselves by their actions, acting from insecurity, but they are loved and precious to God, so that can give away that value to other people treating them with respect and worth.

Each of us here today has God's word. If nothing else you've heard today that Jesus has come to save your life, so that you might live with him for eternity. If nothing else you've just heard that Jesus has died that you might be forgiven and loved by God. That Jesus has sent the person of the Holy Spirit that right now we can share life with God, knowing him as our loving Heavenly Father who has given his best for us, that we might be forgiven and brought into a right relationship with him. In Jesus, God's heart's desire is

for you to grow and discover life in the fertile ground of his amazing love, grace and mercy.

I'm excited by the potential that is in God's word; Jesus. Just imagine a society where people grow and develop knowing they are loved and precious.

I've noticed in life that people always grow the best in a loving, supportive, caring environment.

In Jesus we have the ultimate loving, supportive, caring environment. Wow, what an exciting potential we have to grow a society that grows out of God's very nature; where we are secure enough to admit when we are wrong, and loved enough to forgive. Giving up our rights so that the other person might benefit and grow to their full potential. I don't have to fight for my rights; Jesus is doing that. And I'm

sure he's doing a far better job that I could ever do. I'll trust him, and enjoy living in the love, care and security he has won for me.

What an amazing community it would be if we all lived seeking each other's best, because we trust Jesus promise, that he's

What do you have to do first?

looking after our best. We have nothing to fear, we won't miss out, we won't be walked all over. Jesus promises that he is right now at the God the Father's right hand interceding for you, praying for you, never letting our Heavenly Father forget about you; as if he would. Jesus has promised his life in service to you. And when Jesus makes a promise what can we be sure of? He does what he says.

So today I've got an exciting five year adventure for us to begin, and it all starts with a seed. A pumpkin seed, not because I want to grow heaps of pumpkins, but as a living reminder of what Jesus has gifted each of us with. The seed of eternal life; his word, his promise, his very person, forgiving, loving, seeking to live with us in a close, loving, caring, intimate relationship.

I'm going to give everyone a pumpkin that we might plant them and reap a harvest. Keeping some seeds from the harvest for next year; and using some pumpkins to meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable within our community. We mightn't feed the world, but we could give a few people a nice warm cup of pumpkin soup, meeting their physical needs at