

the Father's love child.
For that is what you
are.

The goal of life is to
grow to maturity as the
Father's loved child.
Developing that DNA
within us that shapes us
to reflect our family
character to reflect our
Dad. The goal of life is;
"that the body of Christ
may be built up until
we all reach unity in the
faith and in the
knowledge of the Son
of God and become
mature, attaining to the
whole measure of the
fullness of
Christ." (Eph. 4:12,13)

So today as you leave
this building remember
what my dad always
said to me; 'Don't
forget who you are'.
Don't get lost; keep

your focus clear, daily
remembering those
beautiful words your
Heavenly Father spoke
at your birth into his
family through baptism:
"You are my *child*,
whom I love; with you
I am well
pleased." (Mark 1:11)
And then seek to grow
to maturity in Christ
Jesus, giving your
Father a good
reputation as you hear
and do his will in your
life. Not to gain his
favour but because you
know without a shadow
of a doubt you have his
love, you have his
DNA imbedded in you,
just waiting to be
discovered and
enjoyed.

Let us pray.
Our Father in heaven,
may we know deep
within our souls your
love for us through
Jesus. May we live true
to who you have
birthed us to be through
our baptism, your loved
children who you are
proud of, and want to
share your life with.
Jesus by the power of
the Holy Spirit show
me where I've
wondered of and got
lost, show me where
I've been rebellious,
self-centred, slack in
listening and doing the
Father's will. Grow me
to more and more
reflect Jesus' image in
all I do and say, giving
you and our family a
good reputation. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

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

11 January 2009

BAPTISM—You're a love child of God.

Mark 1:4-11 Jesus baptism



What do you think you
need to know when
you're lost?

Two important things
to know would be,
where you are and,
where you want to be.
When I find myself lost
driving around I first
work out where I am.
Then I find where I
want to be, and with
that information I'm no
longer lost, but rather
have a plan on how to
get from where I am to
where I want to be.

Have you ever been
lost? Lost as a child,
lost in a strange town,
lost emotionally,
feeling as though you
were on a roller coaster.
Lost in a relationship
feeling like everything
is falling apart and you
don't know what to do
next. Lost trying to
understand your
children, trying to
understand your parents

wondering what makes
them tick. Lost
understanding yourself.
There's lots of different
ways to get lost.
Someone may tell you
to get lost.

When you know where
you are and where you
want to be you're not
lost, but have a
direction to travel in. A
direction that is leading
you to where you want
to be.

The 'One Month to
Live' series is an
opportunity to stop and
reflect on where you
are compared with
where you want to be
going. I notice that I
need to keep a regular
check on my street
directory to make sure I
stay on track. Getting
lost in territory you
haven't travelled before
is an easy thing to do.
Getting lost in a storm
is even easier – the

wind blows, the waves
surge, the sky blackens
and soon you've lost
sight of your bearings,
not knowing which way
to go.

This happens
emotionally when
things start to go all
pear-shaped, or when
we're run down, we
lose our bearings and
are easily lost. That's
why when you're really
stressed out, totally
emotionally strung out;
it's not a good time to
make major decision
because you've lost
focus on your bearings.

Maybe that's why
before a major event in
Jesus' life we read of
him going to a quiet
place and praying;
talking it over with his
Father, free of
distractions. Before
Jesus chose the twelve
apostles; "... Jesus went
out to a mountainside to

pray, and spent the night praying to God.” (Luke 6:12) Before Jesus is arrested what was he doing? “Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching that place, he said to them, ‘Pray...’ and what did Jesus pray? ... Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.’” (Luke 22:39-42)

Jesus kept his bearings clear, especially knowing he was entering a storm. The Father’s will, that’s what he wanted to be doing and not get lost in the hurt, the anger, the pain, the sense of abandonment which was to follow.

In life it is easy to get lost, especially when I lose my bearings.

You may be asking; ‘What’s this got to do with Jesus’ baptism?’

which was the Gospel reading. In Jesus’ baptism we find one of the bearings we need to keep us on track and not get lost. The Father said, for all to hear; “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:11)

As a Christian my life
“You are my *child*, whom I love: with you I am well pleased.”

is now found in Jesus, so through Jesus these are the words our Father in heaven spoke at our baptism; ‘You are my child, whom I love; with you I am well pleased’.

Baptism is God legally adopting you as his child, the child he wants to shower with his love more than anything else. He wants to be the best Father possible, sacrificing himself that you might grow to maturity and

enjoy life with him, knowing life in all his fullness. That’s our Father’s will, that you get to know him, to know the depth of his soul and enjoy living life together, growing as the child he is over the moon about. Growing as the child he is proud of, proud to tell the whole world.

That’s what judgement day will be all about, our Dad proudly declaring to the whole world, this is

my child, you’re my child and I want everyone to know.

Sadly some people will have told God to get lost, because they want to go it alone. And they will be granted that desire, and be left alone! Lost, trying to find themselves. Lost, seeking love, a purpose for being. Lost, alone, unloved, a wasted existence. Truly tragic.

So life isn’t about becoming the best I can

be, life isn’t about becoming a self made person. Life is about growing into the child I am in Jesus. The child I was birthed to be through baptism. There we became the Heavenly Father’s child, whom he loves; with whom he is well pleased.

That means you don’t have to try and win God’s favour or get him to like you, he loves you and is proud to call you his child.

He has breathed his life giving Spirit into you. You now bear his DNA, and have all eternity to discover and grow in it.

A lot of life is wasted trying to prove ourselves, being controlled by the fear of rejection, seeking approval from others to feel good about ourselves.

As a child of God you’ve got nothing to prove and everything to

discover. You’re loved by the Father and have his DNA, so that you can discover and grow in loving just like Dad. And Jesus shows us how, he tells us and lives out what that looks like. We’re not left lost, trying to discover what a god-like life would look like. We’re not lost,

Don’t forget who you are.

we’ve got Jesus in clear focus.

So when I read the ‘One Month to Live’ devotional I don’t just swallow it mindlessly but I measure it against what I know about Jesus. And where there’s a clash I follow Jesus teaching: “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in someone else’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye... first take the

plank out of your own eye...” (Luke 6:41-42)

I start by looking at myself. Is the Father wanting to grow me, is he stretching me, or is there something I need to repent of, is this an area I need to change in my life. Jesus points me to self assessment and not condemnation.

Once I’ve looked at myself and applied what the Father is saying to me to myself, then I can speak into a situation. Jesus

DNA is never to lord it over others as their superior – which he could have done, seeing he is God and I’m not – but Jesus comes as my brother, along side of me. Jesus comes to serve and not to be served, for the greatest is the one who serves all. Jesus wasn’t interested in being proven right – he doesn’t have an inferiority complex – he’s interested in you growing healthy and strong, to maturity as