

grace, mercy,  
forgiveness and love.

Isn't it great, as a citizen of Heaven my life is no longer about chasing after what I don't have, but generously giving from what I have. I'm not shaped by my needs and wants, by my insecurities and the happenings of life, I'm shaped by my King, Jesus, being empowered to live his identity into everything I do, so that his kingdom comes and his will is done.

Just like we as Australians have an identity, so we as citizens of Heaven has a desirable identity. It's unAustralian to let down your mates. It's

not a citizen of Heaven to do my will just because it feels good at the moment. I live that the Father's kingdom come and that his will is done, for the kingdom, the power and the glory are his.

Let us pray.  
Our Father in heaven, we thank you today that we are citizens of Heaven. Jesus we ask today that we would continually fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might live faithfully doing your will so that your kingdom comes, especially in the way we love one another as you have commanded us. May your kingdom come as we go sent by

you, just as the Father sent you, that may more people might come into your kingdom and live. Live life in all your fullness. Amen.

25 January 2009

## DISCIPLESHIP 2.

### Mark 1:14-20 Jesus calls His Disciples

This weekend we celebrate 'Australia Day'. We celebrate being Australians and proud of it. People will become citizens and pledge their allegiance to Australia. We celebrate those who have worked hard for our country giving them special recognition. Even though that may be a somewhat unAustralian thing to do – we cut down the tall poppies, those who think they're a cut above the rest. We're a nation of mates, not a nation of class distinction. We have an Australian identity that can be recognized. We have an Australian way of living. We have our Australia myths that shape us. We are a nation of mates, who stick together, no matter what. The Anzac spirit calls us to die

with our mates rather than desert them and save ourselves. The harsh nature of our Australian climate, and the tyranny of distance, has meant that we have had to rely on each other or quite literally die.

Today's Gospel reading from Mark records Jesus calling his first disciples. Calling them to be part of his Kingdom. To become citizens of the 'Kingdom of God'. As citizens of heaven we too have an identity that can be recognized. (Discuss – describe our identity)

Jesus reminds us today that part of our identity is that we are a people of repentance. "Repent and believe the good news." (Mk 1:15) Repentance reminds me that I'm not perfect,

and neither should I expect you to be. I wander and lose my way. I'm prone to getting off track; just like a car that is left to its own devices will drift. You need to be continually guiding a car in the direction you want to be going, especially when the road is windy.

Repentance for a follower of Jesus means continually adjusting to keep our focus on Jesus, that our life is a reflection of him. Repentance is summed up in the Lord's Prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done."

Did you notice that little word; 'Your'. The focus isn't on me. That's an important part of repentance, taking the focus off of me and what I want and being focused on Jesus

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### 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

and what he wants,  
what the Father wants.

It's not my kingdom  
and it's not my will, but  
I'm following Jesus,  
giving everything that  
the Father's will is  
done, holding nothing  
back. This is an  
essential part of our  
identity as citizens of  
heaven, as citizens of  
Jesus' kingdom. I'm  
living to expend  
myself so that  
someone else will  
profit. So that the  
Father profits, as his  
kingdom comes,  
and he receives the  
glory, honour and  
praise. Which is how  
we finish the Lord's  
Prayer; "For the  
kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever."

As a citizen of heaven I  
live for the Father's  
glory, as I trust him  
with my life doing his  
will in all areas of life,  
keeping my focus  
clearly on Jesus. That's  
how I know for sure  
what the Father's will  
is, Jesus, whom I'm

follow is the perfect  
reflection of the Father.  
"The Son is the image  
of the invisible God...  
For God was pleased to  
have all his fullness  
dwell in  
him..." (Colossians  
1:15,19)

This may be one of the  
hardest things I have to  
do, because my wants

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### What is our identity at Citizens of Heaven?

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are always coming to  
the fore, and present  
themselves as all  
consuming needs. I  
need a new TV. I need  
this approval. I need  
10% more to be happy,  
or at least one windfall  
of a million dollars. I  
need this to live.

What does Jesus say?  
"...do not set your heart  
on what you will eat or  
drink; do not worry  
about it. For the pagan  
world runs after all  
such things, and your  
Father knows that you

need them. But seek his  
kingdom, and these  
things will be given to  
you as well." (Luke  
12:29-31)

Of course the problem  
with living for the  
Father is that I might  
miss out. Who's going  
to look after me if I  
don't? We have the lie  
in our society; 'God

looks after those  
who look after  
themselves'. Jesus  
says; "Don't be  
afraid of missing  
out. You're my  
dearest friends! The

Father wants to give  
you the very kingdom  
itself. Be generous.  
Give to the poor. Get  
yourselves a bank that  
can't go bankrupt, a  
bank in heaven... a  
bank you can bank on.  
It's obvious, isn't it?  
The place where your  
treasure is, is the place  
you will most want to  
be, and end up  
being." (Luke 12:32-34  
Msg)

As citizens of Heaven,  
as citizens of Jesus'  
kingdom, I live secure

under his rule, and his  
promise to be with me,  
with us, right to the end  
of the age. What bank  
can promise that? Most  
of them can't even  
promise to remain in  
our town as they in  
their self-seeking  
obsession for profits  
sacrifice us.

Jesus, our King, will  
never sacrifice us,  
he has already  
sacrificed himself,  
that we might live  
under his rule,  
feasting on God's  
grace, mercy,  
forgiveness and love.  
Free to grow as citizens  
of Heaven, giving  
generously, because we  
have been given so  
much already.

That's certainly part of  
our identity; 'We give  
because we have been  
given', 'We serve  
because we have been  
served', 'We forgive  
because we have been  
forgiven', 'We love  
because we are loved'.  
Our Father has poured  
himself into us so that

his very nature might  
flow out of us.

We live from what we  
already have. In Jesus,  
as citizens of Heaven  
we live from the  
wonderful security we  
have, from the  
abundance we already  
have. The happenings  
of life don't shape us,  
but the grace of God

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### We live from what we already have.

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shapes us, that we  
reflect our Father in all  
we say and do,  
following Jesus'  
example, and then we  
begin to shape the  
world around us, not  
the other way around.

This is shown in the  
apostles continual  
discussion about who  
would be the greatest.  
That's part of my sinful  
nature, that I want to be  
the ruler and not the  
slave. I want to call the  
shots and do it my way,  
and you can't tell me

what to do. But Jesus  
comes and says; "Who  
would you rather be:  
the one who eats the  
dinner or the one who  
serves the dinner?  
You'd rather eat and be  
served, right? But I've  
taken my place among  
you as the one who  
serves." (Luke 22:27  
Msg)

In Jesus I'm  
empowered to be  
different and not  
simply respond to  
my insecurities, my  
fears, my felt needs  
seeking to secure  
myself, and in the  
process helping create a  
world of haves and  
have-nots. Rather in  
Jesus as a citizen of  
Heaven, I have had my  
deepest needs meet that  
I can now seek to serve  
those around me from a  
position of security,  
from a position of love,  
from a position of  
authority. In Jesus, I've  
been made a legal  
citizen of Heaven who  
now has the power and  
authority to serve  
others with God's