

It's good news that God didn't give up on David. How tempting it would have been. But even in the face of David's rejection of God, God still thinks it's too soon to quit and out of love pursues David.

Do you want to know the amazing nature of God's love? Then don't hide from him, but come to him humble, relying on the mercy he offers in Jesus. Come to him admitting your need, that you're not the centre of the universe, that you're sorry for leaving him out in the cold and acting selfishly. Come asking to be forgiven in Jesus' name, and taste the

joy of his forgiving grace. Know a love that doesn't quit on you, but freely gives of it's best for you. Know this amazing love of God in Jesus and be freed to live from it, loving in the same way.

Be free from simply wanting and taking and be set free to have and give. We have Jesus' love. We have all we need so we can freely give.

Did you notice the emotion of the disciples when Jesus came walking to them on the water? Fear. To which Jesus said; "It is I; don't be afraid." (John 6:20) May you daily here Jesus saying to you; 'It's me; don't be

afraid – we can face this life together – I love you.'

Let us pray. Jesus, show us where we are tempted to believe that we have to have something other than you to have life to the full. Break that hold on our lives so we don't acted lovelessly like David, but that we act knowing we are loved by you, and then seek to love as we are loved, giving of ourselves so that others might benefit. Jesus may we know you more and more intimately discovering you more personally, enjoying sharing your life with you. Amen.

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## 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

26 July 2009

## JESUS' LOVE IS ESSENTIAL

Ephesians 3:14-21



Last week I asked what was essential for the church. The number one essential is Jesus. Without a living, breathing Jesus there is no church. There is no community built around him. Thankfully we do have a living, breathing Jesus.

The second essential is people. People who build their lives on Jesus, having him shape everything. Their relationship with Jesus shapes the whole of their life, and one essential is that they love each other, just as they are loved by Jesus.

That's a third essential that wasn't mentioned last week;

that the relationship we have with Jesus, which creates the relationship we have with those in his Kingdom is a relationship of love. Jesus loves us to death, and so calls us to love each other the same way.

So Paul prays that the people at Ephesus know the full extent of God's love for them in Jesus; "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure

of all the fullness of God." (Eph. 3:17-19)

That certainly is my prayer for everyone here today; that you get to know the width, the length, the height, and the depth of God's love for you in Christ Jesus. Not that you read about it, or have someone tell you about it, but that you experience it, that you live in it.

God has come to love each of you, so that you might know how precious you are to him. It cost him his life. God the Father suffered the agony of seeing his Son, Jesus, murdered because of people's envy, greed, hatred, insensitivity, injustice, lack of love.

Jesus was prepared to pay the price of hell, feeling abandoned by God, so that we never have to. Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice of love, he died for each one of us, for you. Jesus' love isn't empty rhetoric; it's built on his action. Jesus' love for you isn't built on convenience, bailing out when it all feels too much. He tasted the depths of hell, but even there it was too soon to quit on us, on you. He tasted the depths of hell so that you might know the riches of God's amazing love for you.

This love is a stark contrast to that of King David, who when he saw Bathsheba, even though she was already married, took what he wanted. David already had three wives. He had been anointed by God as King. God had promised himself to David. David had it all, but it wasn't enough, he still had to have Bathsheba. I wonder what had gone wrong with David that he acted in such a loveless manner.

**Love isn't Wanting and Taking**

And once he started it went from bad to worse. Don't let anyone tell you just once won't hurt. Our actions have consequences. One action leads to another, for good or bad.

David got Bathsheba pregnant and then tried to cover it up, which resulted in him killing Bathsheba's husband. A man loyal to David. How did David end up being so far from where God loved him to be? He orchestrates this loyal man's death to cover up what he had done.

The story of David and Bathsheba isn't a love story but one that shows how far we go from true love when we start down the wrong path.

David saw what he wanted and took it, there's no love in that. There's no love in lust, greed, envy, guilt, murder. Simply taking what you want no matter the cost to others isn't the way to discover the depth of love. It's a good way to destroy your soul and lose yourself in guilt and regret. Which is precisely what happened to David, he was left with guilt and regret.

David was left with the fear of being exposed, of being caught out. He tried to hide it, but that's rather futile when it comes to God, he knows. David had compromised himself, his relationship with the nation, his relationship with God, and of course his relationship with Bathsheba. I'm sure he would have been wishing at times that he hadn't got involved with her, but it was too late.

How different things would have been if when David was tempted he talked to God about it. How different things would have been if David stopped, and reflected on all that God had blessed him with, because God loved David.

How we lose perspective when we think there is something we just have to have. We have to have it, we can't live without it, and then we lose perspective on all the good we have and the high cost our loveless actions produce.

**Love is Having and Giving**

What are you tempted to believe you have to have, that you just can't live without?

God knows we can't live without him, and his love for us, and a community to love in like manner. Love always needs to find expression in acts of kindness, in acts of service, in acts of self-less giving, in acts of sacrifice, which gives that the other person might benefit.

David simply took because he wanted it. It certainly didn't benefit Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, David's loyal soldier who gave his life fighting for David. David wanted it so he took it, and what an absolute mess he ended up with.

Thank God he didn't leave David to his own devices. Who knows how much deeper he would have dug the hole he was in. God's love for David leads him to send the prophet Nathan so that David had the opportunity to repent. So that David had the opportunity to heal those broken relationships and be restored, as he admits his wrong and threw himself on God's mercy.