

Father's loved, precious children with whom he is well pleased. So when the devil chooses to attack you he's not taking on you, he's taking on our Dad. We're not hapless victims. We're God's children, who he has paid for with the life of his Son Jesus. We are the kingdom where Jesus rules. The kingdom Jesus' defends and fights for with his power and might.

Don't let any giant bluff you. Don't fight any giant on their terms, but call on Jesus and in his power and might live victorious. Live victorious as Jesus' disciple, extending Jesus' kingdom, to his glory,

honour and praise as he continually wins the victory as we step out trusting him, living life with Jesus, living life Jesus' way.

Let's not get sucked in, looking for a bigger giant to defeat our giants. Bigger isn't better. All that glitters isn't gold. Jesus' way is the way of sacrifice, the way of forgiveness, the way of being gentle and kind, loving our enemy, doing good to those who hate us. Not to crush them but that in our lives we express the victory we have in Christ Jesus, declare to all that the kingdom of God has come.

Let us pray.
Jesus, thank you for winning the victory for us over sin, death and the devil. Thank you that you call us to share your victorious life with you as part of your kingdom. Grow our trust in you letting us know you better, knowing your love for us more deeply and intimately. Jesus help us to live your victory daily, declare through the way we live that your kingdom has come. As we live your victory may many other people come to know you.

21 June 2009

NOW IS THE TIME

2 Corinthians 6



Last week we began our look at 2 Corinthians beginning with chapter 5 and Paul's reminder that we are all called to be Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation. Christ has called each of us to go and bring the reconciliation he has won so that other people might be put back into a right relationship with God.

We're not only called to help people get back in right relationship with God but also with each other. As God's people his passion is that we live at peace with each other, that we deal with conflict his way and are reconciled to each other.

Last week I shared about the four G's for the 'Peacemaker's Pledge'. They were first to; Glorify God, Get the

log out of your own eye, Gentle restore, and Go and be reconciled.

One question I didn't ask last week was; when should we do this? When should I help another to be reconciled to God? When should I make the effort at being reconciled, restoring a strained or broken relationship? When should I start?

Paul follows straight on with these words; "As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain... I tell, you, NOW is the time of God's favour, NOW is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2) When do you think Paul is suggesting would be the best time to do something? NOW!

Now is the best time; who knows if any of us

will have a tomorrow. Now is the time of God's favour – what good news. I don't have to wait; I can access God's grace and mercy, NOW.

But I know that I don't always do things now, I put them off, or try and avoid the situation, I don't grasp the now. And I've noticed that has the habit of making things worse, or letting bad habits become ingrained, or getting me down on myself feeling guilty and less effective the next time something happens.

What gets in the road and stops me from acting? What am I waiting for before I take God at his word?

Goliath for forty days came out and challenged the armies of Israel and for forty

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

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

days nobody acted. Nobody believed that now was the time of God's favour.

So when David comes along what does he find? The army is demoralised. People's faith in God is being undermined. We read; "Goliath said, 'This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.' On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified." (1 Sam. 17:10,11) For forty days this giant has crushed their spirits.

Why didn't Saul go and fight him, after all he was the Lord's anointed. God had chosen him to lead his people. God had chosen Saul as his ambassador as if God himself were making his appeal. But Saul has long since lost faith in his anointing, and can only see what appears to be the

physical reality before him.

Goliath must have presented an impressive sight; 2.9 meters or 9 1/2ft. That's huge. He obviously looked invincible to Saul, who would have felt like an immature boy in comparison.

Now is the time of God's favour

I'm sure lots of the Israelites were thinking, if only we had a champion 3 meters tall, we'd be more impressive, more intimidating and we'd be able to win. If only we had our own giant.

Who did God use to defeat this giant? An immature boy!

I recon I'm tempted at times to think for the church to grow we need something special. We need to outshine the

rest. We need a great band, we need more enthusiasm, we need all the bells and whistle. Then we can compete with the giants of sport and entertainment and we won't be defeated as boring and irrelevant.

The Israelites needed a giant. What did God supply? An immature boy, who only had sticks and stones. Who would have you backed; the fighting machine – powerful, athletic, glowing in his armour, or a boy with a bag of stones and a stick? I'd have gone for the giant to win.

I love David's attitude. David was also anointed by God. I love what David said to Goliath; "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you

into my hands... All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give all of you into our hands." (1 Sam. 17:46-47)

Do you notice that in the end this isn't a fight between Goliath and Saul, or Goliath and David, or even a fight between the Philistines and the Israelites, but this is a battle about who is God. Goliath was calling on his god's and felt secure. David trusted in the God of Israel who had made a promise to him and to this nation, and he went out to slay the giant and to take over the land as God had promised.

The Israelite army waited forty days, and with each passing day they become more and more defeated. They lived as victims of Goliath. He was too big, too strong, too well educated in killing, we

just can't stand against him.

David walked in, and on the same day cut off Goliath's head, and claimed the territory for the Lord. That wasn't because David was better than Goliath, or that David was a better fighter than Saul, or Jonathan or any other

Now is the day of Salvation

soldier who was there that day. David trusted God, took him at his word and acted. Goliath didn't stand a chance; his strength, his glistening armour, his self-confidence, his education was no match for the God of Israel who always keeps his word and can be trusted.

What giants are trying to intimidate you? What giants are causing you to wait, undermining your faith,

taunting you? What conflict looks too big for God to reconcile? What person seems impossible to be reached with Jesus' love and forgiveness, that they are reconciled to the Living God?

David was anointed by God and became his champion, because the living God was with him. Jesus is anointed by God. That's what the word Christ or Messiah means; anointed by God.

Jesus is God's champion who has defeated those giants; sin, death and the devil. Jesus has defeated them through his death on the cross. Jesus has won the victory and is alive, he has been raised to life and sits at the Father's right hand in victory, using his power for the church.

When you were baptised into Christ, you were also anointed, chosen by God. You were anointed as the