

Jesus has done, is doing and will do.

What symbols do you have that help you remember that Jesus is alive and wanting to share his life with you, today, tomorrow, always. That's Jesus' passion, to share his life with you. He's got nail marks in his flesh as reminders. What helps you remember all that Jesus has done, is doing and will do?

Let us pray.

Jesus thank you for being so passionate that you gave your life for us. Help us to always take this to heart that we might live that same passion. Help us always to treat people the way you do, with great passion giving them infinite worth. Jesus help us this week to live your passion into everything we do. Amen.

1 March 2009

LIVING PASSIONATELY.

One Month to Live—2



Today we look at the theme of 'Living Passionately'. Amazing things happen when you have a passion for something. What to some people might be excruciatingly boring is invigorating. You love doing it, you can't wait. When I'm passionate about something I'm transformed, life is fun.

Some people are passionate about stamp collecting. They get excited when a new series of stamps is released, and have to buy a set. Some people are passionate about plants, they just love gardening and can't wait to get out and get dirty. Some

people are passionate about bowls, and it consumes their life. Other people are passionate about sport, they watch it, they play it, they practice for it and if you give them half an chance they'll talk about it all day long. Have you noticed that when you're passionate about something things change?

Paul in Romans says; "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord." Paul is reminding us not to loose our passion for Jesus, because one thing is for sure, Jesus hasn't lost his passion for you. The guy who gave his life for you

so passionately on the cross is no less passionate about you today. He's excited about sharing his life with you. His greatest desire is to live life to the full with you, that your life is lived passionately and not ho hum, in the doldrums.

In Luke we have a story about some guys who were passionate about helping their mate. He was a paralytic. They were carrying him to be healed by Jesus. They weren't going to leave their mate paralysed when there was this hope of healing. So they picked him up, mat and all, when they heard Jesus was in

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

town. Now was the time to act.

The 'One Month to Live' slogan reminds me of the power of a dead-line. Sunday morning always motivates me to work hard Saturday night! There is no tomorrow, it's now or never. I have to prioritise and focus on the task at hand. I even stop watching sport till the task is done.

These guys see an opportunity to help their mate and they go for it. Their passion, their love for their friend spurs them into action, before it's too late.

Missed opportunities are definitely one of the regrets of life.

These guys are prepared to do something drastic.

They stop everything and take their mate to Jesus. They even make a dirty great big hole in someone's roof so they can get their friend to Jesus. That's drastic.

If it had been my roof I don't think my first reaction would have

What are the passions Jesus has placed in your heart?

been one of pleasure. How would you explain that one to the insurance agency! Of course the good thing was that Jesus was delighted to see them.

The thought this story raises is what is Jesus calling you to do that you are putting off. What important thing are you not doing, and maybe missing the opportunity of a

life time. An opportunity to share life with Jesus as you reach out in love to another person, as together you rip off the roof and bring healing and wholeness to another person.

What are the passions Jesus has placed in your heart? Who are the people Jesus has brought into your life that you

might be the agent of his passion and so live life to the full being his presence to them? What wonderful opportunities to share life with Jesus do you have today, this week?

These guys dared to take their mate to Jesus. They realized what was important and they removed the obstacles.

The second point this story highlights for me is to; Expect the unexpected. They weren't put off when things didn't at first go according to plan. They come expecting to find Jesus, but they run into a crowd with no way through. Do they quit because there is a stubbing block? No. They think and altar their plan. The goal is the same, get their friend to

Jesus that he might be healed. They can't use the front door, so they go through the roof, and their friend finds himself at Jesus' feet. Just the right place to be.

"When Jesus saw their faith, He said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'" (Luke 5:20 NIV) That was unexpected by the Pharisees, and they went into defence mode, with tragic

consequences. They reject the very person they are longing for, the Messiah. They can't even rejoice at this person being healed. When the unexpected comes your way how do you respond?

One important way to

Expect the Unexpected

keep us ready for the unexpected is to create God space. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed..." (Mark 1:35 NIV). Make time to be alone with Jesus and you'll be ready to meet the unexpected, because you won't be doing it alone, but with Jesus passion for life.

This story also reminds me that it is good to keep a constant reminder. "...Jesus said to the paralysed man, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.'" (Luke 5:24b) Wouldn't that be a great reminder of what Jesus did for this guy. A reminder that would help him live his life passionately from all that Jesus did for him.

One thing about life is that it is easy to take things for granted and then they lose their importance. That's why we have anniversaries, birthdays, and other special events. So that we can remember. That's why we have symbols in this building to remind us of all that