

were the ones who were using the Commandments to prove their goodness, condemning others, as they build their temple and their kingdom, which sadly had no place for Jesus. They crucified him. Rather now we have the wonderful power to take up our cross and follow Jesus, not crucifying each other put crucifying our selfishness, our pride, crucifying our kingdom as we let Jesus' kingdom come through us, in the way we love, forgive, serve one another in Jesus power, in his grace and mercy.

Jesus offers us such a wonderful liberating lifestyle, such a wonderful liberating community; as we kneel before him, our brother and our king, receiving his forgiveness and love, so we can go and be living it.

Let us pray.  
Jesus thank you for giving your life on the cross so that I could be forgiven and live in the Father's love, as you do. Your grace is way beyond anything I could ever deserve.  
Thank you that I can always freely come and kneel before you,

confessing my sin, receiving your forgiveness and then in your power take up my cross and follow you, living your loving into every situation of life, that your will is done and that your kingdom comes. Amen.

15 March 2009

## LEARN HUMBLY.

### One Month to Live—4



Today's theme in our 'One Month to Live' challenge is to 'Learn Humbly'.

When people come to the end of their life it is common for them to become dependent on others. They are no longer self-sufficient or proud. Yet in their weakness there is a liberating truth to be discovered. The apostle Paul expresses this truth as he struggles with an issue in his life that he is absolutely powerless over. He's asked God three times to remove it. But God says, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness". So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me." (2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT)

I must admit that humble pie isn't the tastiest. But humility allows me to learn from my mistakes. The apostle Peter is an example of this. He really crashes. He was never going to abandon Jesus, even if it meant death, but on the night Jesus is arrested Peter denies him three times. When the rooster crows; "The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: 'Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly." (Luke 22:62-62 NIV)

Peter wept bitterly, that's a vastly different response to many of the Pharisees who Jesus seems to continually clash with. In the

Gospel reading for today Jesus has just driven the traders out of the temple, reminding everyone that God's house is to be a house of prayer and not consumer driven community. But no-one weeps bitterly, what's their response? "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" (John 2:19)

Peter is humbled and his relationship with Jesus grows. He learns deep within his soul the grace and mercy of God, the love with which Jesus holds him. The other people become Jesus' enemies and eventually kill him. Here's their telling reason; "If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him and then the Romans will come and take away both OUR temple and OUR

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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

nation.” (John 11:48)  
Whose temple and  
nation? Whose Church?

Jesus has to go so that  
they can keep their own  
little kingdom, so that  
they stay in control and  
continue doing their  
own thing.

Peter wept bitterly. It’s  
painful to weep bitterly,  
but its in our  
weakness that we  
know the power of  
Christ. Too often in  
my strength I only  
know the power of  
my will, my ability,  
my hopes and dreams,  
which will all evaporate  
when death comes  
knocking, and all I’ll be  
left with is, thankfully  
Jesus, and his earth-  
changing presence.

I love the reading we  
had from 1 Corinthians  
today; “Jews demand  
signs and Greeks look  
for wisdom, but we  
preach Christ  
crucified.” (1 Cor.  
1:22,23) I weep bitterly  
with Peter over my sin  
and rely totally on  
Christ crucified, that I

might be forgiven and  
restored to a life far  
greater than anything I  
could make or even  
dream possible.

Peter wept bitterly,  
unlike Judas who in his  
feelings of failure goes  
and hangs himself. He  
refuses to kneel before  
Jesus and tries still in  
his own power to put

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### Whose temple and nation? Whose Church?

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things right. What a  
tragic figure. I hope I  
always have enough  
sense to kneel before  
Jesus and admit my sin,  
my failure, to him.

In Proverbs we read;  
“A man who refuses to  
admit his mistakes can  
never be successful.  
But if he confesses and  
forsakes them, he gets  
another chance.” (Prov.  
28:13 LB) We don’t  
succeed in life by  
playing the blame  
game. Which I know  
I’m tempted to do; they

made me do it, if only  
these people had treated  
me properly I wouldn’t  
have lost my temper.  
When I play the blame  
game sadly I’m not  
admitting my fault. It’s  
everyone else who has  
to change. Like I said;  
‘I don’t like humble  
pie’, it’s much tastier to  
blame others and try  
and shove it down their  
throats. Sometimes  
I even try and do it  
to God, blaming  
him for those things  
I don’t like, it’s his  
fault.

But really it’s just my  
faulty thinking. I need  
to change and live from  
the power of God’s  
grace and mercy in  
Jesus, through his  
crucifixion. I need to  
admit my fault as I  
kneel before Jesus,  
reliant on his power to  
change me and to  
change the world  
around me.

To learn humbly I also  
have to let go of my  
guilt. I know it is so  
easy to fail and then  
believe I’m no good

and not try again.  
Thank God in Jesus, we  
have the God of the  
second chance, so I can  
grow through my  
failures and not be  
shaped by them.

Don’t believe your  
mistakes, hanging onto  
them, letting them  
distort you. Believe in  
Jesus’ crucifixion, and  
the forgiveness he  
has won for you.  
Believe you are  
forgiven, learn from  
the situation, and  
try again to love as  
you are loved by  
God in Jesus. Let the  
power of the cross  
shape you into a Christ-  
like image.

But at times it is so  
tempting to believe in  
my own strength and  
goodness. I can even  
take God’s word and  
use it to make me look  
good. I take the Ten  
Commandments and  
say look; I don’t kill  
anyone, I don’t lie, I  
don’t commit adultery,  
I worship every  
Sunday, I respect my  
parents and those in

authority, basically I’m  
a good bloke. Why  
wouldn’t God like me,  
I’m a good bloke.

Actually I’ve often  
heard that said; ‘Why  
wouldn’t God like me,  
I’m a good bloke.’ And  
the people who said it  
were. Some were my  
friends, people I  
enjoyed spending time

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### Life isn’t about being labelled

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with, having a great  
time together. They  
were good blokes, but  
we still hurt each other,  
sometimes  
intentionally, mostly  
unintentionally. Either  
way it hurt. We still  
made mistakes, we  
messed up, we made  
immature choices, and  
we lived selfishly at  
times.

But life isn’t about  
being labelled a ‘Good  
Bloke’. That’s  
something I repent of,  
because then I just

became a distorted  
image of what other  
people think is good.  
I’d rather kneel before  
Jesus, and hear him tell  
me I’m forgiven and  
loved of God. A loved  
child of God who now  
can live through the  
power of the cross  
loving others as Jesus  
does.

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Of course that’s  
why we have the  
Ten  
Commandments, to  
help us love one  
another, not to be  
used to prove I’m a  
good bloke. Rather  
Jesus has brought  
together a wonderful  
new community of  
brothers and sisters,  
adopted by his Father,  
so that we might live  
together bearing our  
family DNA of love,  
reflecting our Dad in  
the way we die for each  
other, rather than  
killing each other to  
maintain our temple  
and our kingdom.

In the Gospel reading  
for today the people  
who challenged Jesus