

Jesus' loves are going to be fully embraced by him, enjoying each other for life. I'm eagerly looking forward to that.

Second when you're judging what to do with the day, remember that growing in a healthy relationship with Jesus; loving other disciples as you are loved by God in Jesus, that's what life is all about. Everything else is just a support act. Daily make the time to enjoy Dad, to share time with Jesus, to celebrate the Holy Spirit's presence. Isn't it fantastic; God has made it his passion to spend as much time as he can with you, inviting you into his life.

I love the Old Testament where it says; 'offer your

sacrifice and eat joyfully in the Lord's presence.' God has always wanted to enjoy our company and for us to enjoy his company. No wonder the central feature of our worship is a meal, where the family gets together and enjoys each other's company and Jesus' company. There is nothing more important; that's Jesus' bottom line. Jesus' passion is that you enjoy hanging out with him, that you look forward to spending time together, celebrating life together.

That's why Jesus' number one image of heaven is a party; a feast, where we are enjoying each other's company, celebrating life together.

When I judge myself I reckon I've been loosing some of that passion. I've been loosing the joy of sharing life with Jesus and Dad, and the rest of his family. That's God's passion, which I reckon is fantastic. In Jesus, God finds me, us, interesting and he wants to spend time together. He can't think of anything better than being with the people he loves. Actually that's his idea of paradise.

Let's pray.
Jesus thank you for loving us, fill us with the Holy Spirit that our passion is loving you and your brothers and sisters, enjoying each other. Amen.

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

22 November 2009

JESUS THE JUDGE

John 5:21-29



How do you judge whether something is good or bad? The taste. The smell. Is it rotten. With food at times it is usually easy to pick if something has gone off. Though the odd prawn has caught me unaware, but the upset stomach sure pointed to something being bad.

How do you judge whether an action of yours is right or wrong? The smell and taste test doesn't work in this situation. I'm sure we could all think of things we did; because everyone else was, so it had to be right, but it wasn't. Here things become a bit harder and the consequences are greater.

When it comes to relationships and the hurt that can occur because of a silly word or a thoughtless action

the consequences increase dramatically. Here is where the greatest hurts in life occur; matters of the heart. How do you judge whether something will bless or hurt your relationships?

This is an important part of life, knowing how to make the right decision. Knowing how to make the right judgment.

Notice we're not being judgmental. That would be a wrong decision, where we condemn another person. Where we label them and judge their worth by their actions.

As Christians brought up in the Lutheran branch of God's family, that's one thing we have stressed; we don't live by works righteousness,

determining a person by what they can achieve. Rather we live by grace, letting God in Jesus determine our worth, determine other people's worth. And God the Father graciously gives us the worth of his one and only Son's life. Wow!! How precious and loved you are, and are the people you meet this week.

I know I'm daily tempted to be judgemental and judge people by their looks, thinking they're successful because of the clothes they wear and the car they drive. While they're failures, just listen to the way they speak. The only loser here is me, for making a wrong judgement.

These are people Jesus has made worth dying

for. So in Jesus I'm called to die that they might live, not to kill them that I might feel good.

In Jesus we're gifted to see life and people as wonderful and precious. In Jesus we're gifted to be people of hope, knowing the wonderful power of God's grace in Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

That's not because we turn a blind-eye to sin, but that we know the one who has the power of life; Jesus. And today we are reminded that Jesus has the power to create life – "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it... For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself." (John 5:21,26) In Jesus our choices are ones that

can lead to life and not death.

I think there is way too much death, hurt, pain, anger, resentment, despair. The Good News is that you, we can speak words of life. The choices we make, in Jesus, can bring life into a world of death. That's not because I'm

In Jesus you're an agent of life!

such an amazing person, but because Jesus is. Jesus has been born our brother that we might help him birth a whole nation of sisters and brothers. Our sisters and brothers, joined together by the bond of God's love for us in Jesus.

In Jesus you're an agent of life. In a life and death situation what would you like to be; impotent, unable to help, or one who

breathes the breath of life into a person? I know we all would want to save a person rather than kill them. And in Jesus that is precisely what we have the power to do. As we speak his word we are breathing the Holy Spirit, God's breath of life into a person. In a life and death situation, just like you, I want to bring life.

The choices we make are important. They can bring life or death. So it is vitally important to stop and judge what I'm doing. Not to condemn me but to keep me effective. In Jesus my worth is rock solid. In Jesus I do have the word of life. I just need to stop and check that I'm using it to it's maximum so that the maximum number of people are brought to life in Jesus.

We each have the wonderful privilege of being sent by Jesus to continue his life giving

work. "Again Jesus said; 'Peace (that's life to the full as Jesus gives it) Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" (John 20:21,22)

Forgiving sins isn't some trivial matter. So let's not trivialize it but appreciate it for the life giving gift it is. Forgiving sin is removing the barriers, the deathly illness that destroys our relationship with God and each other. In Jesus you are put back in a right relationship with God, so that you can share his life with him; today.

So what are some guides I can use to judge myself, or that we can use to judge

ourselves that we remain effective, breathing Jesus' gift of life into as many people as possible.

One thing death reminds me is that I don't have unlimited time. All things have a used by date. That reminds me this is urgent and can't wait.

It's never too soon to tell the person you love; 'I love you'

It's never too soon to tell the person you love; 'I love you'. Passion brings urgency. This reminds me to keep faith in Jesus as my number one priority, everything else can wait. Yes, I could even miss-out on the grand final, for nothing is more important or more urgent.

When it comes to seeding or harvest time what attitude do most farmers have? Their efforts become

galvanised on the task at hand. Other things, even though they are important, they have to wait.

One thing about life is it gets busy and often what's important gets consumed by the immediate. So I need to stop and judge how I'm using my time and energy, otherwise the immediate consumes me and I'm not as effective as I'd like on what's lasting. Faith in Jesus, growing as his disciple is what life is about. Everything else is just a support act.

So that's two things to keep in mind as you judge. The first was that in Jesus we have the word of life. So when you begin to feel that things are going from bad to worse, stop and remember in Jesus you have the power to make a world of difference. We're not going from bad to worse, we, the people