

not how love works, because then you'd worry about what would happen once you become unimpressive, once all you're left with is Jesus' promise. Once you have nothing to offer, will Jesus dump you? Will he look for someone younger and more interested, someone better looking and more his equal. Will Jesus dump you because you're just simply not interesting enough, he wants more? Will Jesus ever dump you? Heaven and earth will pass away; if nothing else I'll get old and wrinkle. But Jesus word; 'I love you' will never pass away.

The part about this love story that isn't written

in the bible is your response. The part that can complete this love, daily saying yes, letting Jesus electric love flow, or that can say no and cut the circuit, leaving God's love for you in Jesus rejected and unfulfilled.

I for one want to daily say yes to Jesus love; and seek to live it. So that when Jesus returns I'm 'able to stand before the Son of Man'. After all it's the same person I'm sharing life with now; living that real down-to-earth, heart to heart relationship that Jesus has invested himself heart and soul into.

Let us pray.
Jesus your love is wonderful. I don't know why you love us; I don't deserve it, but I certainly want to live it. Jesus I want to live this relationship you've reconciled. Jesus I want to share your life loving you as you love me and all your sisters and brothers. Amen.

29 November 2009

ADVENT 1—RECONCILE

Luke 21:25-36



Today as we begin our Christmas preparation I'm reminded that unlike the shops we have nothing to sell. Jesus isn't for sale. Over Christmas there certainly is a lot of hype about buying this or that present, buying food and all you need for Christmas. But we, the church; Jesus' sisters and brothers, have nothing for sale. My brother isn't for sale. So rest easy, I'm not after your money.

Though Jesus is after one thing. Today in the Gospel of Luke we're reminded: "At that time they will see the Son of Man (that's Jesus) coming in a cloud with power and great glory." (Luke 21:27) Yes Jesus is returning. That's his iron clad promise: 'I'll be back'. You can risk your life on it.

When Jesus returns he will be after one thing. He won't be asking about what present you brought him for Christmas. After all it is his birthday, and you usually buy presents for the birthday boy. Jesus is returning in power and glory looking for one thing. And it is something you can't buy.

What's Jesus looking for?

After this verse Luke writes: "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28) The word redemption can have the idea of buying someone's freedom. For example you could redeem a slave buy paying the price set on

the person. Once the price was paid they would be free.

At Christmas we have nothing to sell, but we do have the most expensive gift of all to receive; Jesus. Yes, Jesus wraps himself up in our flesh and blood and gifts himself to us that we might be set free. Jesus isn't for sale, but we are under bondage to sin and need freeing.

When Jesus returns what is he looking for; bargains, or friends, loved precious family members, YOU and ME?

The bible is God's love story, where he will pursue the person he loves to the end of the earth, to the darkest corner of the world, whatever it takes. God's great passion is

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

to be reconciled with you. To build an intimate relationship based on his unconditional, no strings attached love for you. That's why I've got nothing to sell.

God hasn't come with a bag of boiled lollies to seduce you. 'Have I got something you for, the best deal in the world, it will make your life fantastic. And yes you do get a set of steak knives'. God is no sleazy salesperson. He's got nothing to sell. He's not out to con you.

God has one simple passion and that's to love you heart and soul. To be there 100%, for you. Jesus' greatest desire is to be reconciled with you, that together, with you and the rest of his sisters and brothers, you can enjoy life together. So we can celebrate life together. Jesus' passionate desire is to share his life with us; enjoying each

other's company. Sitting around the pool on a balmy evening, smelling the lamb chops sizzle on the BBQ, hanging-out together.

That's why Luke encourages us, when we hear and see the signs of the end, not to run and hide, but to

Jesus has one simple passion, to love you heart and soul

'stand up and lift up our heads'. Our best mate, our big brother is coming to visit. More than to visit, to live with us that we might have a face to face relationship, with all that inhibits the love he has for us, gone. And all that inhibits us responding in love to him, gone. I think for love to work as it is meant it needs to be reciprocal.

Here in lies a problem. The love God has for us

isn't being reciprocated. That means returned. Why? Why this break that has cut the current of God's love so that we don't feel and experience the electricity of it?

What breaks the current of love in your life?

What makes you grow hard-hearted? The one thing I want in life is to be loved and accepted, and even liked, but at times I know the way I act produces the opposite result. At

times I'm grumpy. At times I feel hurt and hurt back. At times I get resentful and feel someone deserves a good kick in the pants. At time I'm 180 degrees in the wrong direction. At times I don't feel particularly loving or even loveable.

The 'Good News' of Christmas is that Jesus hasn't come to hate you for rejecting him, but he has come to woo you, to forgive you, to show you that his love

for you is real and yes you can trust him enough to be real with him.

God could have walked away with a clear conscience; but that's not the nature of love, the nature of his love.

God couldn't have walked away from us and lived with himself, because he wouldn't have been true to himself. God doesn't walk away he walks in that we might be reconciled, that we might relate to each other on the basis of love, complete trust, a passionate desire to be together, enjoying life and each other. This is why Jesus was born, and this is why he's coming back, he wants to enjoy life with you, because to him your special, to Jesus you're not for sale.

When Jesus returns Luke reminds us: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but Jesus words will never pass

away." (Luke 21:33) Jesus desire to live reconciled with you won't change; you can build your life on that. In Jesus, God's love for you will never change, after all he's invested himself heart and soul.

I guess the only unknown to this amazing love in Jesus is

Love to work needs to be reciprocal

your response, my response. Luke wrote; "Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)

Luke reminds me that this relationship with Jesus, like all relationships, won't always be smooth sailing. Be on watch, don't take Jesus for granted. That's a classic

killer of any relationship. Pray – in other words, communicate. Spend time sharing your life with its ups and downs with the one who loves you. Share from your heart, because Jesus is sharing from his heart. He's not interested in polite well written prose. Jesus is after

heart to heart stuff. Jesus is after laughter, tears, happiness, those things that frustrate you. Jesus wants you to be real with him, for that's what he is with you.

Christmas is about God, in Jesus getting real, so we can be real with him and not play silly religious games, trying to score points with him, trying to impress him, trying to get him to do what we want. Jesus just simply isn't interested in that sort of a relationship.

Amazingly Jesus loves you and you don't have to impress him. That's