

that is rock solid – Jesus has given his life for me. He certainly won't change his mind now. I can trust that Jesus knows how to solve this world's problems and throw my lot in with him seeking to do his will. I can trust Jesus with my life. Trust him enough to give up thinking first about myself and begin learning how to put others before me; serving them with the many gifts and talents that Jesus so richly blesses me with each day.

Today Jesus is calling all his disciples to greatness. Today Jesus is calling you to a great life as you put the love he has for you into action by serving those you live, work and play with, that they might benefit according to Jesus' will.

How do you get a promotion in the church? What would you answer the person who asked that question?

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for giving your life that I

might be forgiven and adopted as your Father's child. I praise and adore you for your amazing service to me. I know I don't deserve it and could never repay you. Thank you for your amazing grace. Please flood me with your Holy Spirit that my life might reflect your greatness as I serve those you bring into my life with the gifts you have lavished upon me. Daily free me from the fears and insecurities that rob me of the life you have planned. Jesus may your will be done in my life, to your glory and honour. 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

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THE GREATEST IN JESUS' KINGDOM

Mark 10:35-45



The other day I heard an interesting question; 'How do you get a promotion in the church?' What would you have answered to that question?

In the Gospel reading for today James and John are after a big promotion; "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." (Mark 10:37)

I wonder if they at that point had in mind being crucified, because when Jesus came in his glory those on his left and right were two criminals suffering capital punishment with him! Is that the sort of promotion they had in mind?

In the book of Acts we read; "It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who

belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword." (Acts 12:1,2) James is the first apostle to be killed because of his relationship with Jesus. Is that the kind of promotion this person was thinking of when they asked; how do you get a promotion in the church?

Of course the question itself reveals that the person has no idea about what the church is. How do I get a promotion in my family? I was born the last of four children, is it a promotion when I get to tell my brother and sisters what to do and they have to obey me. Or is it even a bigger promotion when I can tell my mother what to do and she has

to obey me. And now you're all thinking; 'Tim's really lost it. That's crazy talk'.

That's no doubt one of the reasons Jesus said; "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **NOT SO WITH YOU.** Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." (Mark 10:42,43)

I'm not to lord it over my wife; I'm called to serve her. Just as Jesus daily serves me. As Jesus serves me by pouring out his life for me, by dying for me, that I might live, live life to the full.

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

Promotion within the church is insane talk. But becoming great isn't. Did you notice Jesus didn't say; 'Don't become great'. Rather Jesus shows us how we can live great lives. Does anyone want to live a great life?

Jesus has come to lift us from mediocrity to greatness. It's simple; “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” (Mark 10:43,44)

There's only one problem, this isn't my first concept of greatness. I guess ever since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit our concept of greatness has been to be like God. Adam and Eve weren't interested in God

telling them what was right and wrong they wanted to be in control. They wanted to be in control, so they took the fruit and ate it. And what was the outcome? Did they reach greatness? Hardly!

Now we have a world of insecure people who end up being greedy so

Who is in control?

that they can feel in control of their lives. Fearful that if they don't have more than they need for each day then they'll be exposed to a danger they can't control. Of course the simple truth is that none of us are in control. God allows lots of things to happen to shatter that illusion, death being one of the more profound events.

Jesus told this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man

yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ Then he said, ‘This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years.

Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’” (*Doesn't this sound like success? He's made it. Here comes the*

good life. He's in control.) **BUT** God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with those who store up things for themselves but are not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:16-21) Who's in control?

Adam and Eve end up dirt poor. From dirt they were taken and to

dirt they have returned. Who's in control?

The wonderful truth is that God is in control and not me. To which everyone can say; ‘Thank God’. Thank God that Jesus is King of his Kingdom the church. Thank God that the King is my brother, and he lives even today to serve me; because he is the greatest. He lives to grow me and all his disciples to become more and more like him. For Jesus' dream is that we all become great. That we all are set free from our fears that inhibit, from our insecurities which imprison, set free to trust Jesus control and to finally give up on my own.

But I'm addicted to the lie that I'm in control, and that I need to have everything worked out and that if I'm enthusiastic and committed everything will work out fine, just how I want it to. Left to

myself I begin to believe this lie. My sinful nature is addicted to it. I'm addicted to being in control.

Daily I thank Jesus that I'm not in control of my life, but that he is. I can rest secure knowing my life is in Jesus hands, especially when everything feels out of

Jesus' will is done!

control. Daily I ask Jesus to lead me so that I might do his will, and not invite him to do my will. Isn't that part of the wonderful Gospel message; that in Jesus, God has invited us to share in his life, to enjoy living life with Jesus in control. I don't want Jesus to bless what I'm doing, I want to be part of what Jesus is blessing. I don't want to control Jesus telling him what to do.

Actually my sinful nature does! If only Jesus did it my way, wouldn't life be so much better. I don't actually put it that crass, but I know on the way to General Synod part of the discussion was what was wrong with the church and how we could do it better. If only the church was to listen to that conversation everything would be so much better. If only those in government did what I thought, the country would have no problems. My sinful nature does like to pop up and believe it's got the answers, if only we did it my way. Have you ever had those sorts of thoughts, or am I the only one who is tempted to think they're right?

I daily thank Jesus that I know his will and he's invited me to join him in his great plan for this world. I daily thank Jesus that in him I have a security and worth