

worth we have in Jesus, living it into all we say and do, infecting our lives with Jesus' worth.

This will cause conflict with those who want you to accept their accredited worth. They've earned it. They've lived good, helpful lives. They've devoted themselves to good causes. They deserve it. But death always exposes our earned worth and worthless, for it all comes to nothing.

Thank God that in Jesus we bring his worth into everything we do. That's echoed in one of Mother Teresa's quotes; 'It's not what you do that counts but how much love you do it with.'

We are empowered in Jesus to infuse every action with his love, with his worth, with his life. So even giving a drink of water takes on new meaning.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for dying that we might live. Thank you for paying the price that we might be justified and adopted as the Father's loved children. Jesus thank you that we bring this worth into everything we do. Free us from the lies of the devil that we might live the joy of your love for all to see, that they might come to know you and find their worth in you, being set free to live life in all your fullness.
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 June 2008

Cultivating Mission 1.

Matthew 10:24-39



Today we are reminded that there is a price to pay if you follow Jesus as one of his disciples. "If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household." (Matt. 10:25b) That's getting us ready so we don't go with any false delusions. Jesus has commissioned each of us to go in his name, but it won't be a picnic, there will be struggle. There will be conflict. There's a price to pay.

Jesus says; "Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your

fear for God, who holds your entire life – body and soul – in his hands." (Matt. 10:28) The devil will seek to bully you into silence. Don't be fooled, Jesus is saying. Jesus is reminding us that God is far greater than any of the bullies we'll face. They can't take your soul, your core being. That's held safe and secure in Jesus' hands. So in Jesus the fear of God takes us from being terrified, to having awe that this all powerful God has promised himself

to us, to me. What confidence we have. Not that we won't be challenged, but that God, in Jesus has placed us on his side.

So that awe inspiring power of God is at work for us. We're not facing this alone. We're not facing this battle from our own strength, but in Jesus we have the strength of the God of heaven and earth to make our stand.

There is a price to pay, but Jesus has paid the price for us to be on God's side and to have his presence, through the Holy Spirit to make our stand as Jesus' disciples.

And this passage leaves us under no illusions that things can get tough, really tough. "For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her

mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – your enemies will be the members of your own household.” (Matt. 10:35,36)

Things can get tough, really tough. I can easily turn away from a work associate, but I can't easily turn away from family, those deepest of human bonds. If all I had was my own strength to rely on I would fall. The pressure and heart-ache would be too much. But in Jesus we have the strength to; 'love our enemies, to bless those who persecute us, to bless and not curse them.' (Rom. 12:9-19) In Jesus we have the strength to take the fight up to them and love them as Jesus has; From the heart, sparing nothing, because to

Jesus they are precious. But the moment I go expecting to be thanked by those I seek to love in Jesus' name, I've opened

myself up to defeat. Then my motive has moved from Jesus to being thanked. To

There's a cost to following as Jesus' disciple.

being liked because I'm a good bloke. But my motive for loving another person is solely because in Jesus I am loved by God. And loved people love – I can be true to who I am, to whose I am.

The devil will seek to attack us at our most vulnerable place. He will seek to destroy our self-worth. That's why Jesus says; “Anyone who loves

their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, anyone who loves a son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matt. 10:37)

Jesus isn't out to destroy families, but he knows that here is a central place where we are tempted to build our self-worth. Here's where the devil can really get our values twisted and drag us down.

In Jesus what am I worth? The gift Jesus gives is his life. That's what I'm worth – the God of heaven and earth, the eternal, almighty God of the heavenly hosts has given his life for me. That's the price Jesus paid so that I might be forgiven and adopted as God's child. That is the wonderful gift of worth Jesus has

given. It is from this amazing worth that I can now face life, no longer having the happenings of life shape me, but now the worth I have shapes my life.

In Jesus I no longer seek to build a worthwhile life, but I let the worth I have infect the life I live. So it's not the love of parents or children that makes my life worthwhile. It's the worth I have in Jesus that now flows through into these core relationships, infecting them, shaping them, giving them the worth of Jesus' life. What a powerful way to live.

Jesus frees us from being slaves to our inadequate sense of worth, to being free to shape our life and our most important

relationships by the worth he has gifted us with. Part of the legacy of sin is that we all have, an inadequate sense of worth.

As Jesus' disciple I'm gifted with a self-worth that can infect my life making every

Let the worth you have in Jesus infect your life.

aspect worthwhile, because Jesus' worth infects it. So I give up seeking to live a worthwhile life and seek to fill every aspect with the worth Jesus has gifted me with.

That's what it means when Jesus says; “Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” (Matt. 10:38) Why waste your life trying to be

worthwhile when you already are in Jesus worthwhile beyond your wildest dreams. Don't waste it, live it.

Live Jesus' worth into all aspects of your life reclaiming them as worthwhile. Don't live your life back-to-front, seeking to gain worth from what you do, rather let your worth in Jesus, infect all you do with his worth.

That's why Jesus said; “If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.” (Matt. 10:39 The Message Paraphrase)

To follow Jesus there is a price to pay. We give up seeking to build a worthwhile life, and accept the