

the life you give and all these loved people you give to live that life with, celebrating together the life you live with us.

24 February 2008

## Jesus Calls Us to Live Life Together - 4

### Making the Most of Life Together



“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to FELLOWSHIP, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Yesterday as I flicked through the paper this heading caught my attention: ‘Thousands agree with Kevin, we do love a whinge’. And then in the small caption: Whine, Moan, Gripe. Though it made me laugh to see that just above that; it’s Fringe Festival Party Time.

Has Jesus given his life so that we can have a good whinge? I’m sure we’d all resoundingly say, NO! Jesus is no whinger, thank God for that. Though I know I give him plenty of ammunition. Rather Jesus has come so that we might; “have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

In the first reading for today from the Exodus story, we find a

community having a huge whinge. There’s no water, and there is a community of about a million people. Does that sound familiar to anyone – lack of water, community of a million people, in an arid region?

Jesus calls us as his disciples to live life together, and he gives us what we need to make the most of this life together. That’s Good News. Jesus doesn’t give a kit project to build, but forget to put in the plans and that one crucial tool you need.

That’s total frustration. That’s where whinging comes from; we have a problem but we can’t find the solution. We know what we what but we just can’t seem to get there, and the things we’ve tried have failed. That’ll produce whinging every time. It doesn’t leave you feeling good about life, thanking God that you’re alive.

So in the Exodus story we have a million people with no water. What do you do in such a situation? They played the blame game to the point where I’m sure Moses would have gladly handed in his resignation. It must have been a terrible time, a heart-breaking time. Moses named the place; Meribah which means, quarrelling.

What a great name for a region. Where do you come from? Quarrelling. Doesn’t sound all that appeal to visit.

Though I know I’m tempted to fall into the trap of whinging, even though I know it doesn’t work. So when you hear me whinging, please tell me. Then I can say sorry and put my effort into something that will make a positive difference.

That’s one reason we take time out each year to reflect on Jesus’

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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

crucifixion. Because here I find the person who makes the positive difference in my life that I need. Jesus is no whinger, he's a saviour. He's got the answers. He gives thirsty people water.

He didn't whinge about the woman at the well, and did he have some ammunition to get stuck into her. Five failed marriages, and the guy she's shackled up with isn't her husband. Jesus could have set about whinging; why did you cheat on your husband, why are you such an immoral person, why don't you care about society and just selfishly do your own thing. You need to change, your life is a total mess. I don't hear any of that coming from Jesus lips, because Jesus isn't a fault finder, he's an answer provider.

What do you need in your life, a fault finder or an answer provider? What do you want to be, the fault finder or the one who points to the answer provider?

The beautiful thing about the story of Jesus and the woman at the well, is how Jesus brings this woman into a relationship with himself that changes her life, to the point that she has a positive impact on her whole community.

The community that has ostracised her, so that she is forced to get water in the heat of the day, on her

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### What do you need: a fault finder or an answer provider?

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own, and not in the cool of the day with the other women. Does she ever have something to whinge about – how unfair life has been to her, how unfair and callous those self-righteous do-gooders are.

But Jesus brings her into a healthy relationship not only with himself, but also with herself, freeing her from the mistakes of the past, to the point she gives of herself telling the rest of her community about this wonderful encounter she has had with Jesus. She points her

community to the answer provider who has healed her, freeing her from the mistakes of the past, opening up the future, now with positive expectations.

The reading we had from Romans today gives us the reason why Jesus is not a whinger but an answer provider. We see the power behind Jesus

that can keep transforming us into a community that supports, encourages, lifts each other up, keeps each other focused on the hope

we have. I love this passage from Romans.

“God demonstrates his own love for us – no whinging here, the motive is God's love for you – While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Jesus dies to being a whinger, a fault finder because that's not who he is. Jesus lives as one who is prepared to stake his life on those he loves, even if that means his death. Nothing is going to stop Jesus loving those he loves.

He simply refuses to become a fault finder who only has a deep dark empty well, and even if there was water down there we don't have a bucket to get it. Jesus' love wells up to the surface, refreshing us, enlivening us, filling us with hope, with the joy of life lived together within the atmosphere of love.

Not just any love, but the very love of God, the very essence of God's nature becoming the air we breathe.

Does this sound like the sort of community you'd like to be living in, growing in, celebrating life with Jesus in? Which would you prefer; Meribah – Quarrelling, or Jesus loving you, freeing you to love just like he does?

If all I can do is articulate a problem and offer no real solution, I'll come across as a whinger. Jesus is an answer provider. Do you need to be loved? Of course. Jesus loves you. Do you need freeing from the mistakes and hurts of life, so they don't shape

who you become? Of course. Jesus offers forgiveness which is based on justice being maintained. Do you need people to love and be loved by? Of course. Jesus, sends the Holy Spirit, God's loving presence with you, and draws us together to share Jesus' love with each other. Do you need hope, yes there are answers to

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### What do you want to be: a fault finder or show people the answer provider?

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your life issues? Of course. Jesus, offers hope, he teaches us how to live life to the full, he points to a future that not even death can rob us of. Jesus offers hope, not wishful thinking, for what Jesus offers has been paid for. Paid for with his life.

Jesus comes so that we might live life together with him. Jesus died on the cross so that we might make the most of this life we live together, not whinging, but rejoicing together in the one who leads us into life. A life that fills us to

overflowing, so that we too might live leading the thirsty to the spring of life.

Let's pray, inviting Jesus to free us from whinging, and to grow us closer and closer to him as his disciples, that our living might show the one who has answers to our life issues. After all Jesus didn't die on the cross to

show how hopeless we are, but to offer a way of hope that opens up our future with amazing potential, embraced in Jesus' love for you.

Jesus forgive me for the times I've only whinged about how things need to change, or that there appears to be no hope. Forgive my whinging, and bind that spirit up so that I stop it. Fill my heart and mind with all the fantastic things you've done, you're doing and will do. Jesus let loose in me the joy of your salvation, the joy of your answers to life. Grow me as part of your answer. Help me keep my life focused on you, seeking to live intimately with you as your disciple. Thanks for