

focused on his promises, seeking to live out his outcome, always believing that Jesus can change people that they might become his disciples, being devoted to the apostle's teaching, sharing life as they love one another, in the power and authority of Jesus, continually communicating with him in prayer, so that

his great movement might keep flooding the world.

Let us pray.

Jesus, remove those things which inhibit me from hearing you. Open my ears to hear and do your will, to your glory, honour and praise. Amen.



6 April 2008

The Art of Communication Jesus' Way.

Listening with Open Ears

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to PRAYER.” Acts 2:42

When it comes to communication, have you ever felt like you were talking but no-one was listening? Have you ever had someone say something to you, and then in the next instance wonder what they said? Listening is a crucial part of good communication.

In the Gospel story for today we have two people talking with Jesus but they don't recognize him. I wonder what at times keeps us from hearing Jesus,

especially seeing he is talking to us.

I think one of the things that kept those two disciples from hearing Jesus, even though he was there talking to them, was that they didn't expect to hear from Jesus. They had turned off their receptors because they believed Jesus was dead and gone. So they weren't expecting to hear anything from Jesus.

Do you expect to hear from Jesus?

Jesus invites us to pray; “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone

who asks receives; those who seek find; and to those who knock, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7,8) Here Jesus is inviting you to seek him so that he might be found. Do you think Jesus expects to communicate with you?

Another thing that could have inhibited them hearing Jesus was that they had lost all hope. It was all hopeless, even though Jesus was standing right there in front of them. When hope evaporates we lose our hearing. When I'm feeling hopeless I become deaf to the hope that surrounds me.

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

I'm surrounded by hope, for Jesus is alive. I do have God's Spirit with me. I'm not left to simply do the best I can, but Jesus invites me to share his life with him that I might discover the best he can do. And the best Jesus can do is sure to be totally amazing. I'm surrounded by Jesus' promises, but when I'm feeling hopeless I become deaf to those beautiful words of Jesus.

What are some of Jesus' promises? 'I will never leave you, nor forsake you'. 'As the Father sent me, I send you'. 'Forgive one another as I have forgiven you'. 'I'm coming back, so that we might celebrate life together, for ever.' What are some of Jesus' promises? I like to regularly jot

down a few of those wonderful promises to remind myself, I'm never hopeless, I'm loved and precious to God. At least that's what God said to me at my baptism; "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life." (Matthew 3:17

Israel." (Luke 24:21) They were looking for a new political order to be established, but Jesus' kingdom is different. Jesus' church is not some new political organisation.

We might lament that the church is in decline, and totally miss what Jesus is doing because we're looking for a different outcome to what he is doing. Jesus is gathering disciples. People who are devoted to seeking him through the Apostle's teaching, sharing life together with him, living from his power and authority, talking regularly with him in prayer. And the fifth thing is being his witness. Introducing people to Jesus that they too might enter a living relationship

The disciples were devoted to prayer

Message) Now that doesn't sound all that hopeless, does it?

Another reason these disciples mightn't have heard Jesus was that they were looking for the wrong outcome. Sometimes I'm deaf to what people are saying because I'm wanting a different response. The disciples; "Had hoped that Jesus was the one who was going to redeem

with him, joining Jesus in his celebration of life.

These two disciples were looking for the wrong thing. Jesus had never intended to establish a new political party here on earth. Jesus goal has always been to gather people into relationship with him based on his love for them. A love which is lived out on the Cross of Golgotha. A love which is always free, no strings attached, so that we can now start living this most wonderful relationship.

The disciples didn't hear Jesus even though he was right there talking with them, because they wanted the wrong outcome. What is the outcome you are looking for when you think of the church?

Are you looking for people to become disciples of Jesus, growing to ever greater maturity in him, reflecting his character in the way they love one another? I'm sure this is what Jesus is calling us to be.

Jesus invites you to pray

In the reading from Acts we have a different story. There three thousand people hear and respond. I love to hear that story. Jesus isn't impotent, he still can cut people to the heart and liberate them to join him in his celebration of life, so we give up looking for the living among the dead.

The people were cut to the heart and ask; 'what shall we do?' To which Peter replied; "Repent and be baptized... in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

As these people heard and responded to Jesus' word, what an amazing

movement swept the world. A movement that we are part of, seeking to sweep Australia. Is Jesus speaking to Australia through you, using your network of relationships? I certainly believe that's what he's want to be talking with us about.

Let's seek to keep open ears to Jesus, expecting to hear from him, keeping