

growing more and more into Jesus' image, both as individuals and importantly as his community. After all Jesus' community is known as 'The Body of Christ'.

Growing in knowing and doing the Father's will because we know in our heart and soul that we can trust him with our lives, trust him with the way we spend our money, trust him with the way we priorities our time and the TV shows we watch, trusting him with the way we relate to the opposite sex, in ways that reflect the Fathers' love. And as we grow in Jesus' image, living life according to the

Father's will, we're loving God, and showing him the amazing worth he has.

And a by product is that our needs are meet, and the needs of other people get meet, as we grow in Jesus' image of love.

Today take some time to reflect on these words and ask Jesus to show you how to live them, to his glory honour and praise.

Let us pray.
Jesus we praise and adore you for going as the Father sent you. Help us to go as you have sent us; so that we might do your will and that the Father's mission you came to do

finds fulfilment in the way we live as your sent people. Help us always recognise the Spirit's presence with us, finding in him the strength, the confidence and the love to go out doing what you've sent us to do. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

18 April 2010

AS THE FATHER SENT ME, I SEND YOU

John 20:19-31



Today's Gospel reading has some of the most potent words spoken by Jesus, so let's spend some time unpacking them and reflecting on how to live them.

To start Jesus finds his disciples where? Behind locked doors because of fear. Fear locks us in. Fear leaves us trapped. Who locked the doors? The disciples are the ones who have locked themselves in. It's their fear; real or imaginary. Which leads me to ask myself; what fears do I let trap me? What fears are stopping me, leaving me closed in?

The disciples feared the 'Jewish leaders'. Fear of other people, and what they might do to us is a crippling fear. I know in my own life that fear has meant I haven't acted, or I have

acted to please those I fear, doing what they want, not what was always sensible. The fear of other people is a direct result of my sinful nature; I feel vulnerable. I feel insecure. I feel I need to prove myself.

What fears are trapping you, or trapping us as a community? The fear of the unknown, of doing things differently can cripple us.

What was Jesus answer to his disciples' fear?

It wasn't more education! What was Jesus answer to his disciples' fear? His presence. Jesus came into their midst and said; 'Peace be with you!'

I love the fact that Jesus comes into my locked room, not to berate me

for my failure, but to bless me with his presence, to lift me to join him in his pursuit of life, life lived to the full. That's what Jesus means here by 'peace'.

My fears rob me of life, but Jesus presence fills me with life, life lived to the full. Life lived beyond my wildest imagination, because now I'm with Jesus and he is inviting me to live life to his wildest imagination.

Then Jesus speaks mind-blowing words. "Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 21:21,22)

Wow, this phrase always blows my mind; 'As the Father has sent

me – that’s Jesus – I am sending you.’ How did the Father send his son Jesus? What was Jesus’ mission?

How did the Father send his son Jesus? Humbly. With Jesus there is no big elaborate show. And Jesus comes to do the Father’s will, which is for our benefit. He doesn’t ask; ‘What’s in it for me?’ ‘What’s to my profit?’ isn’t Jesus’ motivation. So Jesus is born a refugee, lives a humble life, and when he enters his time of ministry he doesn’t lord it over others, but giving his life as an act of service. Jesus freely heals, freely sets people free, joyfully celebrates life, liberating the poor and needy who are trapped by life’s fears.

As the Father sent me I am sending you, sending you to be humble, to live life to the full as you serve others out of a heart full of love and trust in

Jesus. We are sent empowered with Jesus’ words to set people free from life’s fears, to give ourselves away, in lives of service. Lives of service which are set out by the Father.

Which was Jesus’ mission. Jesus’ mission was to give his life as a sacrifice so that people

How did the Father send the Son?

might be set free. Free from the fears that rob life. Free from the sin which motivates us because of our insecurities and needs.

I find it interesting that Jesus’ mission isn’t determined by my needs, but by the Father’s will. Jesus’ mission is to do the Father’s will, and it was the Father’s will that he should give his life as a ransom for us all. Not so I might have a comfortable life

without any stress, but that I might be forgiven and restored into a living, vibrant, healthy, loving relationship with God. A relationship which now motivates all of life.

I’m not to live from my insecurities and needs, seeking to meet them so I can feel safe, that’s

what the disciples were doing when they were locked away. Fear doesn’t have the power to give life, all my insecurities can do is lock me up, and throw away the key.

Jesus liberates, and leads us into life. Life lived to the full. Life lived in his presence. Life lived according to the Father’s will, because we know we can trust him with our lives, he’s loved us with his. And where there is perfect love, there is no fear.

John reminds us of that in one of his letters; “There is no fear in

love. But perfect love drives out fear.” (1 John 4:18) Before this John defines love for us; “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another.” (1 John 3:16)

Jesus was willing to die for us, because he trusted the Father’s love for him.

‘As the Father has sent me, I am sending you’. (John 20:21)

So as individuals and as a community we are a sent people. Not sent to meet people’s needs but to do the Father’s will. The Father doesn’t want us to be slaves to peoples’ needs, that doesn’t liberate anyone. The Father wants us to go trusting him with our lives, knowing in our hearts and souls that we are loved and precious to him. So he’ll never desert us, and he’ll never lie to us,

we can trust him with our lives, so our lives become loving acts of trust, flowing from him.

So now I’m sent with the Father’s power and authority, because I’m doing his will. Notice the disciples don’t attend a self-help seminar on fear management. How are

“Receive the Holy Spirit”

they set free? Jesus’ very presence. And then Jesus breathed on the and said; ‘Receive a million dollars, you’ll never have to stress again’. No, what did he say; ‘Receive better education, receive an high degree and you’ll be able to make all the right decisions. No.

What did Jesus say; “Receive the Holy Spirit”. (John 20:22b) Which quite simply is God’s presence with us. You’re not on your

own, but God has come and stands with us. It’s his personal presence that liberates and gets us out from behind those closed doors that we have locked.

It’s God’s presence with us in the person of the Holy Spirit which means we now of the love to step out and do the Father’s will. To do what Jesus was doing.

What was Jesus about? Making disciples. Growing a community of people made in the image of God, as they grow as his disciples. For as I grow in Jesus’ image, I’m growing in the image of God.

So Jesus’ first disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit’s presence and Jesus’ command, go and make disciples, who go and make disciples, who go and make disciples, flooding the world with living, growing disciples of Jesus. Disciple,