

As a disciple of Jesus, it's all his, to be used according to what he says. Jesus calls the shots.

That's true with the church. I need to repent of calling it; my church. It's not, it's Jesus church, he calls the shots, he's the boss. I'm thankful, as one of his disciples to be part of Jesus' church.

Quite simply if it's not Jesus' church, it's not church. Quite simply if we're not following Jesus' lead we're not being church. Jesus isn't just the instigator, but the one who keeps us alive. Without Jesus

what would we become?

Thank God that we do have Jesus. That we can listen, because he is speaking. That we can follow, because he is leading.

Let us pray. Jesus we hear your call and seek to follow you. Help us to give up everything and totally trust in you. Grow us to greater maturity. Show us where we need to change, where we are listening and following other opinions of thoughts. Show us where the devil is trying to lead us astray and deceive

us with his half truths. Jesus fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might clearly hear you speaking, that we might joyfully follow your leading. We especially ask to hear from you during these forty days of listening as we seek your will for the future of this your community of faith. Amen.

7 February 2010

LEADER = JESUS

Luke 5:1-11



7 February 2010 Luke 5:1-11 LEADER = JESUS

This is the first Sunday in our 40 days of listening, and we're reminded straight away of who is at the heart of the church; Jesus. It was Jesus who called the disciples. What did he call them to do?
"Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him." (Luke 5:10,11)

Without Jesus and his call to follow where would the church be? Quite simply there wouldn't be a church.

If Jesus isn't the instigator. If Jesus isn't the one we follow. If Jesus doesn't lead, there is no church. Quite simply without Jesus there is no church.

So taking time to listen and follow his lead is essential. If I'm not following Jesus' lead then scarily I'm not being his disciple, so there is just no way I can be living as his church, his community of faith.

The church isn't a democracy where we all have an opinion, work hard at getting support and then putting it to the vote, doing what the most people consent to. In the church we don't

vote, we follow. In the church it's not what the most want, but what one person, Jesus, wants.

If Jesus says jump there is only one response; how high.

In the Christmas story we have two interestingly contrasting stories. First Zechariah is told he will have a son. He doesn't jump for joy, but sets about debating the issue. How can this be. I'm too old. You sure about this. And Zechariah was made dumb to give him time to reflect on who's God.

Mary is told an even wilder story. She's to have a baby. A virgin

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

having a baby, and what's her response? "May it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) I'm sure Mary doesn't understand everything, she simply takes God at his word.

At the heart of the church is one word; Jesus, the living word.

If I'm not listening and following Jesus as his disciple then there is no church. And this listening isn't confined to one segment of our life. What did Peter do; 'left everything and followed Jesus'.

What a powerful phrase. Here Peter gives up calling the shots and hands his life over, totally following Jesus where ever he leads. He doesn't give Jesus

a part of his life, he gives the lot. Jesus now shapes every aspect of Peter's life.

After all the goal of being a disciple is not only to follow, but to become like the one you follow. He shapes you, he determines your

**Without Jesus
there is no
Church**

values; what's right and wrong, he gives you your direction, your purpose, without him you're nothing. This is an all inclusive relationship.

So why do we do what Jesus says? Because it will lead us to a good and healthy life. No. Because it meets my needs. No. I don't follow my needs, I'm now called to follow Jesus' needs, to

sacrifice what I want for what Jesus wants.

Why do we do what Jesus says? For no other reason than Jesus said it, and we follow him with our lives. We follow his with our time, with our talents, with even our money.

If Jesus asks us to do something that seems illogical to the people we live with, and maybe even to me, do we do it? Of course. I don't follow logic, or my ability to reason, I follow Jesus, trusting him with my life, doing what he says, going where he leads.

At the heart of the church isn't reason but Jesus, the living wisdom of God.

At the heart of the church is the living, breathing person

Jesus. He's the one we follow.

Notice we're not Buddhist who follow the teachings of a dead person, we follow Jesus, who is alive and well today. Nowhere in the bible do I read that Jesus isn't alive and leading his church, his community of disciples. I don't follow a teaching, I follow the teacher.

And Paul reminded the Corinthians that we follow a living person; "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:3-5) Jesus is alive. We follow a living breathing

person, not some teaching about him, not simply what he said. Jesus is alive and well, and hasn't given up leading his church.

Of course that was one of the big mistakes of the 'Children of Israel'

**Jesus is Alive.
So we can follow.**

they didn't want God as their king, but they wanted to be just like everyone else and have their own king. What a huge mistake. Let's not treat Jesus as dead and gone, setting up our reason, or our budget as god, simply debating and taking a vote to determine what we do.

The living, breathing, very much alive Jesus leads his church as he

calls each of us through the Holy Spirit. Jesus still calls the shots, he's not dead.

If I don't hear from God, or sense his leading who's got a problem; Jesus or me? I think I do. If I'm not being lead by Jesus, then I'm in all sorts of trouble. That's when I need to be still and seek to listen. That's

when I need to ask, to seek, to knock, knowing Jesus has promised to answer, to lead me to find, to open the door. If I'm not hearing my first step is to repent, to stop simply doing my own thing and ask Jesus to lead, to take control of my life, of my speech, of my money.

Actually the first thing I need to repent of is saying it's mine.