

Jesus is not some historic figure only found in dusty old books who has passed on a few good sayings. How does that faith reflect the image of a life giving, creating God. Jesus is alive, today, right now, and he is still seeking to breathe his life giving breath into people, bringing the dead to life. Life shared with him. Life shared bringing life to the dead.

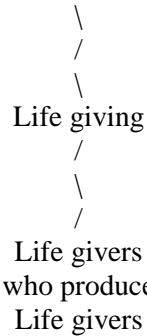
The image of God is one who produces life, life that has the ability to reproduce itself. Jesus; the very person of God, you don't get a clearer image. Jesus has breathed his life giving breathe into us that we might reproduce that life in other people. So

that they too might share in life with Jesus, loving others as they are loved by Jesus.

Today Jesus reminds us that we are to bear his image, that's the who goal of discipleship. And part of that image is that we have life within us. That we are a life creating community, made up of life creating individuals. For Jesus has breathed his breath of life into us; "Jesus came and stood among them and 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. If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven...'" (John 20:20-23)

How would you rate our health on this continuum?

Preserving the Past



Let us pray. Jesus grow us to be true to our new image in you. Grow us as we seek to go as you have sent us, to breathe life into people, that they become life giving people. Forgive our focus on shelters that don't reproduce. Use us to reproduce your life in the people we know, in this community, in this country, in this your world. 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

14 February 2010

In the IMAGE of JESUS

Luke 9:28-36



This is the second Sunday in our 40 days of Listening. I hope you've been keeping a record of what Jesus has been saying to you as together we seek his leading for this his community of faith here at Christ Church.

One essential for Jesus' community; which we call church, is that it bear his image. Part of our Blue Print as Jesus' community is that we bear his image. That always reminds me of Jesus' words recorded by John; "A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciple, if you love one another." (John 13:34,35)

On Valentine's Day it is good to remember

that the love Jesus talks about isn't the same as the love that is focused on at Valentine's Day. The love Jesus is talking about comes solely from him. It is an expression of his very character. This love comes from deep within Jesus, it isn't motivated by anything beautiful, lovely or good looking. Rather Jesus, as he loves people has the power to change us to become beautiful, lovely and good looking, as Jesus heals our hurts, our pain, our greed, our regret. As Jesus redeems us from slavery to sin we are re-created in his image and become a beautiful reflection of God's heart, we become loved people who can now love, we become people whose character is love and that's the best look.

So it is essential for Jesus' disciples, not only individually but together, that they bear his image.

By the way, what was lost when Adam and Eve sinned? They were created in the image of God, but chose to reject that in favour of an image of their own desire. My default setting after the fall is to build my own image at the expense of God's image. Adam and Eve lose that beautiful, lovely, good looking image of God and replace is with a selfish one, a greedy one, and that's a seriously ugly look.

The Good News is that in Jesus we once again have been created in the image of God, for Jesus is the image of God in person. And that image is something we as a

community; the kingdom of God, are also created in. As a community we are created by Jesus to reflect his image, the very personal image of God. Both as individuals and as community we have been redeemed through Jesus to reflect his character in all we say and do. And the essence of Jesus' character is to love without counting the cost, without asking; 'What's in it for me'. Jesus simply chooses to love, and live true to himself.

So it is essential for Jesus' disciples, not only individually but together, that they bear his image.

With this in mind I find Peter's response to Jesus' transfiguration very interesting. What did Peter want to do? "As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, 'Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up

three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' (He did not know what he was saying.)" (Luke 9:33)

I wonder how Peter knew it was Moses and Elijah, they obviously hadn't meet.

What was Peter's response? He wanted to

Buildings & Memories don't reproduce!

build. He somehow wanted to capture the moment and hang onto it. He wanted to build a structure. I find this interesting on many levels.

It reminds me of the first commandment; "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself any image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below." (Exodus 20:3,4) God quite

obviously doesn't want us building images, because how can a dead, lifeless thing be a true reflection of the living God.

God isn't dead and lifeless, but he is the creator, the life giver. And now Peter wants to capture the moment putting up three lifeless structures. One interesting thing I've notice about every structure ever built, it has never been able to reproduce itself.

You don't plant a house in the ground, water it and then watch as new house pop out of the ground. Structures are lifeless, and are incapable of reproduction.

One thing as Christians we confess about God is that he is the creator. God; that's the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, aren't created because they are the source of life. Life flows from them, a life that has the ability to

reproduce. That is certainly part of the image of God; the creator. What God creates has life in it and is able to reproduce. Creation prophesies that to me every day.

Peter wanted to capture the moment with some dead, lifeless structure. How totally inappropriate and totally missing the mark.

Interestingly when Jesus does build what does he use? "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5) Jesus' temple is made of living stone; that's people, that's you and me. The church is made of living, breathing people who have the potential to reproduce, creating more living stones out of that which is dead.

What might have happened if Peter had built those three booths? I reckon Peter might have stalled, withered and died. Cause once you build three booths, there's up keep. You want to stay there, and you become reluctant to move.

Jesus would have

Jesus produces LIFE!!!

moved onto the cross and Peter would have been left weeding his three booths, doing maintenance, wondering how he'd meet the budget to keep things going. All the time being trapped in the past, remembering that day back when Jesus revealed his glory. Back then, but not now.

That is precisely what we're not. We're not here preserving the memories of the past.

We don't read the Bible and think how great it would have been back then, when Jesus was doing all those amazing miracles. Back then, when he healed the sick, drove out demons, when he set people free and called them to follow. Wouldn't it have been great to be back then, the inference often being, it's not happening now.

Our goal is not to preserve the past, but to live now with the 'Ever Living' Jesus, who is the same person today as he was 2000yrs ago. The moment we see our role is to preserve what was handed onto us, we've fallen for the three shelters lie of Peter and need to immediately repent. We're not here to preserve anything, but to be Jesus' agents of life, so people might share life with Jesus today, right now, looking forward to a great future together.