

image. Jesus' goal is to gather us in his loving embrace so that secure with him we grow healthy and strong. The tragedy is the next part; 'and you were not willing'.

How sad is that; 'and you were not willing'. Why? Why weren't they willing? The consequences were enormous; 'Look your house is left to you desolate'. (Matt13:35) They kill Jesus and part of the reason is that they feared following him will mean that they lose their temple. They had to hold onto the temple, after all that's what showed they were God's people, in their mind. What did they end up losing? The Romans can and destroyed the temple, and the whole nation. Then what did they have.

Jesus built a new temple. A temple that has him as it's cornerstone and the witness of the apostles about his life as the foundation. Jesus' new temple is one of living stones. It's build of people who are his disciples, people whose lives are built together around him, directed by him, lived through him and for him.

Today we are reminded of the important need of staying 'Tuned In' to Jesus. Jesus is the one we're focused on meeting. Jesus is the one we follow as his disciples, denying ourselves, taking up our cross. If we end up chasing anything else we too will be like the people of Jerusalem Jesus lamented over; 'they were unwilling to

change, to fit in with his plan, and their house has been left desolate!

Thank God that in Jesus we're never left desolate, but we are embraced in God's gracious love for us, sharing life with him as the children he has declared precious, with whom he is well pleased. In Jesus we have everything.

Let us pray.  
Jesus reveal to us those things that creep in to push you out, so that we can repent of them, so that you stay at the heart of our lives, so that we stay at the heart of your life. Amen.

28 February 2010  
**TUNE IN**  
Luke 13:31-35



This is the fourth Sunday in our 40 days of Listening. Week one we were reminded that Jesus is our Leader, so whatever he says goes. Week two we were reminded that we are made in the image of Jesus. That's both as individuals and as a community. We are the 'Body of Christ'. Week three was a reminder of the importance of Scripture. The image of Jesus isn't some obscure mystical thing only an elite few are privileged to. No way, we all have access to the clear word of God in the Bible, if we take the time to read it.

This week as we focus on 'Listening' to Jesus we are reminded of the need to stay 'Tuned In'.

The Gospel reading is a sad one. We have a nation waiting for their

Messiah. Eagerly, expectantly looking forward to his coming. The Pharisees devoted their lives to bringing this about. Many of them believed that if the Sabbath was kept perfectly, just once, then the Messiah would come. All you had to do was as a nation not work for one day, one Sabbath, and the Messiah would come. Then all their hopes and dreams would come true. Why did Jesus keep healing on the Sabbath, doing what was considered work on the Sabbath?

Maybe the right question to ask is where did the Pharisees get the idea that observing the Sabbath, just once, would bring in the age of the Messiah?

It's a good question in that it reminds me that I

can miss the mark. You couldn't argue with the Pharisees zeal, their enthusiasm, their commitment, it just happened to be a lie. All sorts of warning bells go off in my head at that thought.

Have I, like the Pharisees, picked up ideas, traditions, customs that are missing the mark, but which I hold as true, as essential? Sometimes I don't know if I'm brave enough to face such a question. After all I might be exposed holding onto a lie.

The Pharisees we read about in the Bible didn't want to be exposed, so what did they do with Jesus, their Messiah? The one they had committed themselves to. The one they enthusiastically kept the Sabbath for.

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## 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

What did they do when they meet their Messiah face to face?

We all know they crucified him. Why? Because he didn't fit in with what they believed to be true. Jesus didn't fit in with their ideas on what the Messiah would be like, so they disposed of him. They didn't change, they didn't look at themselves, study the bible seeking God's leading. Just maybe they could be wrong. But that would be stupid; how could they be wrong, they were zealous, they were committed, they were enthusiastic, they couldn't be wrong.

When something you've held for years to be true is challenged, it's hard to admit you could be wrong. At least I'd find it hard. My first instinct would be to reject the idea, to fight to prove I was right. After all we've always done it this way,

how could it now be wrong!

But sadly the Pharisees were horrendously wrong! They crucified their Messiah.

I certainly don't want to end up rejecting Jesus because I'm stubbornly holding onto a habit that I don't want to

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### It's hard to admit you could be wrong.

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change. So today I'm reminded of the importance of staying 'Tuned In' to Jesus. To do that I need to do one important step; LISTEN.

Maybe that's why we have the Sabbath law, not to twist the Messiah's arm, but that we might take the time to listen to him, so that when he does come we recognize him, so that we recognize the way he acts. God reminds me with the third

commandment; to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy, that I need to make time in my life to listen to him. I need to make time in my schedule to listen to Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to lead, to guide, to speak, to shape me to Jesus image, that I follow Jesus' lead.

Paul in the reading from Philippians for today was urging his hearers to stay 'Tuned In' to Jesus. "So let's

keep focused on the goal (Jesus)... Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end

street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praises; all they can think of is their appetites.

But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Saviour (the Messiah), the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthly bodies into glorious bodies like his own." (Phil. 3:17-21 Message Paraphrase)

That reminds me of Jesus first temptation from last week; he was tempted to focus on his felt needs, and to give up on the Father. How easy it is to end up worshipping my felt needs, letting them be centre in my life determining what I do. I'm hungry, so I eat to meet my need. And Christ's Cross quietly gets left out in the cold, as the devil whispers; 'what's Christ's Cross got to do with your

lunch, you're hungry, it's OK to take and eat'. It all seems so harmless, but that's the way the devil works. It all seems so harmless but he's shifted our focus, to our felt needs, and we've just missed the mark. And we unsuspectingly become a community focused on meeting needs rather

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### I need to stay 'Tuned In' to Jesus.

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than meeting Jesus. As a teen I remember hearing that the way for the church to grow was to find a need and meet it. What a subtle lie. The church will never grow while we are needs centred, because then Jesus isn't at the centre. Being his disciple, denying ourselves, taking up our cross – that's living to meet Jesus' needs, then following Jesus isn't at the centre.

I need to stay 'Tuned In' to Jesus, otherwise it is very easy to miss the mark, and ideas, customs, traditions creep in which aren't focused on Jesus and his will, but we end up doing them because it seems like we always have. And at times it even feels right. Meeting a need feels right. Showing love and concern feels right. But what's the first commandment; 'Don't have any other Gods' even if they feel right. My needs and your needs aren't god.

What does Jesus say? "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt. 6:33)

In the Gospel reading for today we have Jesus lamenting over Jerusalem. He wants to gather them together like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. That's a beautiful