

community that gives expression to our king's nature, letting his personality be expressed through us.

And the great think is that this isn't a closed community. The wonderful community of Jesus is open to anyone who wants to come and follow Jesus, having him as their king. Letting his love shape them so that together with the rest of Jesus' subjects, Jesus' personality finds expression in community. A community that loves selflessly, being prepared to die for each other, because they trust Jesus with their lives.

And Jesus will make sure that his kingdom isn't destroyed by those who simply want to do their own thing. They'll be channelled off to go and do their own thing outside of Jesus love and protection, which will prove to be absolutely hellish. To see the truth of that we only have to look at the world around us. A beautify, rich world, full of all sorts of grief and pain, not because there isn't enough for everyone, but simply because selfish, insecure individuals have gone of to do their own thing.

Thank God we have Jesus as our king, and that he has called us to be citizens of his

kingdom where we can grow in loving each other as we are loved by him, putting the relationship principles of Jesus into practice because we trust him with our lives, with our families and even with our money.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for coming to establish your kingdom. Thank you for calling us to be part of your kingdom. Thank you that we now live with you as our king, that we can build life on the security and love your rule offers. Keep us close to you, grow us closer to each other, and show us who we can invite to join in living with you as king in your kingdom this week. Amen.

4 July 2010

JESUS' KINGDOM

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



In the Gospel reading for today the phrase that caught my eye was; "The kingdom of God has come near to you." This was the same message given to those who welcomed those Jesus sent, as well as those who rejected Jesus' messengers.

The first group welcome the king and the kingdom he brings, which will be to their blessing. The second reject the king and don't want to be part of his kingdom, which we're told in no uncertain terms will be to their detriment. Jesus said; "I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town." (Luke 10:12) Which reminds me, my actions have results; either for good or bad.

In the Gospel reading Jesus is on his way to be crowned king, that he might rule over his kingdom. Of course his coronation service isn't what anyone was expecting. His throne was a cross, his crown made of thorns, but that is the kingdom he brings, not one where the king lords it over others, but where the king gives his life for those in his kingdom. Where the king loves his subjects, giving the ultimate sacrifice, his life.

Jesus' kingdom takes on the character of its king, the character of selfless love, being prepared to die for each other, for the benefit of the other person. As we worked through the 'Relationship Principles of Jesus' we were exploring the nature of Jesus' kingdom.

When people from other countries come to visit you can pick them by their accent, by their way of doing things. And each nation has a unique character. It has its own way of doing things, from simple dress customs, to how business is conducted, and more involved social customs. Each country has its own unique character.

Jesus' kingdom is to have the unique character of its king, the character of selfless love, where people live from a deep sense of security, a security that comes from their king. And this security leads to love giving expression not from unmet needs, but because loved, valued, precious people are able to give what they have, that love, that

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

value, treating other people as precious. In Jesus' kingdom we have the security and strength of the king to build our lives on.

In Australia we have a strong, stable government, which allows us to build our lives around enjoying life. That's not true of all nations. Many nations don't have a stable government and life is simply about survival. In other countries fear dominates and people are armed to the teeth just to protect themselves, existing in a horrid atmosphere of fear.

In Jesus we have the love, the security, the person, to build our lives on. And that leads us into community. A kingdom isn't a disconnected group of people, but a community that functions together under a certain set of customs. Just anything won't do.

In Australia we have many customs that help us work together as a community, from the simple rule that we drive on the left-hand side of the road, to more complex taxation rules which help us maintain a fair society for all. We value justice and so we have a legal

system which is independent of the government and the armed forces.

So in Jesus' kingdom we have customs that help us work together as a community. A nation that doesn't work together, but has divided loyalties, or civil war simply destroys itself. In Jesus' kingdom we don't have divided loyalties; we have one king, Jesus. And it's his will and person that shapes

everything. We're not a bunch of individuals doing their own thing, but we're a community, joined together in Jesus, living out his very character together.

I would say one of the reasons Jesus was rejected by the people in our Gospel reading and by people today is that people want to do their own thing. Jesus was heading toward Jerusalem, but people didn't want anything to do with Jerusalem, they had their own agenda, their own way of doing things, and if Jesus wasn't going to change and fit in with them, they didn't want anything to do with him.

Jesus thankfully wasn't ruled by popular opinion, but he ran his life according to his Father's agenda, and that involved his crucifixion, so that we might be forgiven, having the curse of sin removed for the

blessing of living with Jesus as our king; the one who calls the shots.

So now in Jesus' kingdom we have the wonderful opportunity to be living in a community that is characterised by our king. So our customs, our way of doing things is built around Jesus and his relationship principles. Our way of doing business is built around Jesus and his relationship principles; it's all about using our resources to benefit the other, out of love for them. Our personal relationships are built around Jesus and his relationship principles, where we don't ask; 'what's in it for me', but we selflessly die for the other person's benefit, out of Jesus' love for them, finding expression through me.

What a wonderful kingdom Jesus has come and created, his promised land, where people will live from

his love and not fear. Fear of the unknown, fear of not having, fear of others, fear of failure, fear of not being worthwhile or accepted. In Jesus we don't have fear, but we are the Fathers' children, whom he loves and is proud of.

In Jesus' kingdom you

Strong, stable government allows us to build our lives

don't have to live proving yourself; but you can enjoy hearing the Father proudly say; 'That's my child'. In Jesus our life becomes a response to the love we have, lived in the security we have, discovering the amazing relationship of love we have with God.

So in Jesus' kingdom we start with a relationship of love, which our king Jesus wants to share with each of us. Jesus is

alive, and wanting us to be involved with his life, wanting us to share in the joy of discovering a life of true love with him. So Jesus breathed into us the Holy Spirit that we might have a living, vibrant, loving relationship and not just a set of rules. So Jesus gave us the bible, prayer and time to be quiet so that we keep this most precious relationship healthy and strong. The best way to keep any relationship healthy and strong is to live it; to share life together.

But that's not all, in Jesus' kingdom we aren't a bunch of isolated, or even casually acquainted individuals, but we are intimately linked with him as a community that reflects his character. What a great privilege to live with Jesus as king; to have the security of his power and authority, that we might grow as a