

That's Jesus' dream; 'They'll know you're my disciples', by the songs you sing? By the buildings you invest your time and money in? By the name tags you wear? Jesus' dream is; "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 disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34,35)

Jesus' dream is that the church, his community of people, who are growing to be more and

more like him, both as individuals and as a community, might give a little taste of the wonder and joy of being loved by God, of living, laughing and celebrating life with our Heavenly Father. A community free of fear, free to show love at their own expense, because the love of Jesus beats within each one.

What sort of community are you dreaming of? What sort of church community consumes your imagination?

Let us pray. Jesus, flood our minds, our imaginations with your hopes and dreams. Block out all other thoughts so that we might become the people you are dreaming of. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might be living and growing in that reality today. We want to live free of fear and in love with you, and all your sisters and brothers, giving ourselves freely. 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 November 2010

## JESUS: 'I HAVE A DREAM'

Luke 21:5-19



This week I was reminded of the power of the imagination. When you dream of the 'Good Life', what do you imagine?

This week I read; "our current empire, like the Roman empire of the early Christians; seeks to claim our total allegiance by dominating our imaginations." (Re Jesus – Frost/Hirsch) For what I dream, what I imagine as the 'Good Life', that's what I'll do. That's what I'll aim for. That's what I'll spend my money on. If I picture something as boring, irrelevant, totally unexciting, how much time, effort and money will I invest in it?

One of the Devil's best weapons is to portray Jesus and his community as boring,

irrelevant, intellectually dull, because that's no-one's dream.

The picture we hold in our mind of the ideal life is powerful. Our imagination is such a powerful force that Jesus pointed out; "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21. In other words, the things that capture our imaginations (our treasures), whether they are wealth or sex or power, drag our hearts (our actions, our priorities) along with them." (Re Jesus – Frost/Hirsch)

When you heard the phrase, the 'Good Life', what images jumped to your mind?

I started wondering what would jump to Jesus' mind. I wonder what his dreams are?

Early retirement and a beach shack at Port Elliot!

I wonder what Jesus' dreams are?

The disciples looked at the Temple and remarked how beautiful it was. But that wasn't part of Jesus' dream. "Jesus said, 'All this you're admiring so much – the time is coming when every stone in that building will end up in a heap of rubble.'" (Luke 21:6)

My dream isn't to live in a heap of rubble, so thankfully that's not Jesus' dream either. The temple, that magnificent building, wasn't part of Jesus' dream. His dream is far greater, that all this grandeur pails into insignificance.

Jesus' dream isn't to be left with a pile of rubble that was once wonderful. Somehow I don't think that is anyone's dream.

But if I had invested my hopes and dreams in that building, all I would be left with would be a pile of rubble. And sadly people are still fighting over that pile of rubble right up to today. Communities killing each other, hating each other, because they want to lay claim to this pile of rubble. That's a rather sad dream, it's become a nightmare.

Jesus dreamed of a community of people who would love each other, in the same way, with the same passion and character, as the Father loved him, and as Jesus loves his Father.

Then the whole world could collapse, but our dream wouldn't.

Jesus dreamed of a community that would not only be willing, but would actively die for each other.

The early church argued over whether to eat meat sacrificed to idols. Paul was quite happy to thank God for this meat and eat it

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### Jesus dreams of a community who...?

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celebrating God's goodness. But if by eating that meat he threatened someone's faith in Jesus, what was Paul to do.

Here's what he says in his letter to Corinth; "Christ gave up his life for that person. Wouldn't you at least be willing to give up going to dinner for him – because, as you say, it doesn't really make any difference? But it *does* make a difference if you hurt your friend

terribly, risking their eternal ruin! When you hurt your friend, you hurt Christ. A free meal here and there isn't worth it at the cost of even one of these 'weak ones'. So, never go to these idol-tainted meals if there's any chance it will trip up one of your brothers or sisters." (1 Cor. 8:11-13)

This is Paul dying for his brothers and sisters in Christ. It was his right to eat this meat. No problem. But he dies to his rights, so that his brothers and sisters are nourished and feed in Christ.

It struck me, that every day I have an opportunity to put Jesus' love into practice, as I die to myself, giving up my rights to nourish and feed my sisters and brothers in Christ, so that I might value them with the same value Jesus gives. Every day I have the opportunity to

love as Jesus, by dying for other people.

What an amazing community it would be if we were all prepared to die for each other, just as Christ died for us. Not pushing his own agenda at the expense of our life, but at the expense of his life. Jesus pushed the Father's agenda, that we might be forgiven, and brought into a loving, intimate relationship with the Father. Jesus pushed the Father's agenda at the expense of his own life.

What an amazing community it would be if every person I meet was prepared to die for me. Not only prepared, but actively did. That they actively sought to do what was best for me at their expense.

I don't know if I can imagine such a community. Where people would go to work, so that they'll

have the resources needed to meet the needs of those they know Jesus will bring across their path. They live to show love, doing their best for whoever they meet, at their own expense. Receiving thanks, being paid back just doesn't come into it.

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### Can I imagine myself, so fearless, so free...

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Rather they feel so secure in the Father's love, that they hold nothing back, their heavenly Father can be relied upon. Here is a wonderful opportunity to die for the other person, to love them as God loves us in Jesus. The world becomes a wonderful place of opportunity to express Jesus' love. Each person, a God given opportunity to die for as we love with Jesus' character and passion.

Can I imagine myself so fearless, so free, to let go of my hard earned securities so that someone else might benefit, with nothing in it for me.

What sort of community would that be?

It would be a community without poverty. It would be a community where fear of people is replaced by trust; they're here to help, they're here to love you with their best, with their all, freely, joyfully, thankfully. Wouldn't that be a wonderful community to live in? Wouldn't that be a wonderful way to live, fearless, free, loving with Jesus' character and passion? Secure in the Father's love, not worrying about if I'll have enough, because I know my loving Father will always be faithful, after all he's given us his best, Jesus; can't he be trusted with the rest!