

Each time you're hurt you have that wonderful opportunity to go to Jesus, and to live through him. To live his life giving grace into a situation which has the potential to kill, to destroy a relationship, to twist a character, to grow resentment. Thank God we that in Jesus we can rather plant the seeds of his character and have the potential to bring life, saving relationships, growing Christ-like character, living out Jesus' love.

Today Jesus reminds us that it's not about how much faith we have, but

who we have faith in. In Jesus we have all the power we need to do what's unnatural, and to forgive, because he has forgiven us. Because he loves us to death, and Jesus has all that we need to do what's natural to him.

Who needs Jesus to grow their trust in him, so that when you're hurt your first response is to talk to him and then to respond out of his forgiveness and love, bringing his fullness of life into that situation?

Let us pray. Jesus thank you for forgiving me. Thank

you for loving me. Thank you for setting me free to live out your fullness of life into those situations of hurt. Heal me where I'm hanging onto past hurts, regrets, anger, unrepented thoughts and actions. Jesus fill me with the Spirit that I might always live in your power and authority, forgiving as you have forgiven me, loving as you love me. And may I always seek to forgive so that you get a good reputation, and nobody has a reason to condemn you through my actions. Amen.

3 October 2010

FAITH TO FORGIVE

Luke 17:5-10



The Gospel reading for today begins with the disciples asking Jesus to increase their faith. Why did they ask Jesus to do this?

Jesus has just said; "If a brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying, 'I repent', you must forgive them." (Luke 17:3,4)

Now I understand why the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. I was happy with the rebuke them part, but having to forgive them, each time, that might be asking too much. Surely they need to feel a bit of pain, cause we all know without pain there is no gain. But that's not

what Jesus says, he calls his disciples to forgive, and then to forgive, and then to forgive, and then to forgive, and then to forgive, and then, you've got it, to forgive.

I might be getting a bit fed up with this repeat offender. I might be getting frustrated and angry, running out of patience. But Jesus calls his disciples not to do their block, not to give someone a piece of your mind, but to be ever ready to forgive. To be every ready to help your brother or sister, not to condemn them, but to forgive them, to free them, so that they can become all that Jesus has dreamed possible for them.

My response to this is also to ask Jesus to increase my faith, so that I not only offer forgiveness but ask for it.

Maybe I need more faith to hear a brother or sister's rebuke without becoming defensive, without my hackles coming up. I certainly need more faith to accept this as a word from Jesus and seek to hear what he is saying through this brother or sister who has braved speaking up so that my faith isn't destroyed. And even if they didn't have the right motive, Jesus could still be using them to save me from myself, to help me to keep on track with him and not get lost chasing after what I want.

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

Who needs more faith to hear a sister or brother's rebuke?

condescending, to be condemning of a sister or brother.

than seeking what is best for the person who has just caused me pain. My natural inclination takes my down the path of wanting to get even, so we have such stupid sayings as: 'I don't get mad, I just get even'.

I also need Jesus to give me his strength of character to speak up when a brother or sister needs to hear a rebuke. Sometimes I'm tempted to say nothing and hope they go away. I don't want to be involved in a conflict situation.

I certainly need Jesus' love and compassion so that when I speak a word of rebuke it is spoken in love and for the good of the hearer, that they benefit, and that their faith is grown.

Thank God that's not Jesus' attitude. Jesus doesn't get even, even when he gets mad. But he comes to do what is best for me, not pretending nothing has happened but in

If I live from my hurts what sort of person will I become?

Not only because it can be stressful but also because I can so easily come across as looking down on my sister or brother. I can quickly develop an attitude that condemns, they're wrong, and it's all so simply, why can't they get it right. After all I'm doing the right thing. How easily I can lord it over others as I seek to point out their mistakes, and I'm only doing it for their good. How easy it is to step over the line and be

Who needs more faith in having the courage and love needed to speak a word of rebuke, to speak up to save a brother or sister from a faith destroying habit or attitude?

And I certainly need Jesus' love, grace and mercy to be forgiving. My natural inclination when I'm hurt is to hurt. Hurt people hurt. My natural inclination is to respond defensively, seeking to protect myself, rather

a relationship of love and trust he brings things out into the open and deals with them, so that I don't live from my hurt but from his love, his grace, his mercy.

If I live from my hurts what sort of person will I inevitably become? Reflect on that for a moment, what attitudes will be exhibited by a person living from past hurts?

Thank God that in Jesus I can live from present love, based on past mercy, based on God's forgiveness in Jesus. If I live from Jesus' love, mercy, grace, forgiveness what sort of person can I become? Reflect on that for a moment? What attitudes will be exhibited by a person who knows they are forgiven, loved, precious, valued, a person with a bright future based on Jesus' promises?

condemn the word as bad.
Or I can take this hurt to Jesus, talk with him about it. Cry in his arms. Yell out in pain to Jesus. Please never think forgiveness is about pretending something that truly hurt you doesn't matter. If it didn't hurt you

If I live from Jesus, love, mercy and forgiveness what will I become?

Which of these two people would you like to be; the one living from life's hurts, or the one living from Jesus' love and forgiveness?

Each time a person causes a hurt I have the opportunity to choose. I have the opportunity to take on that hurt, to grow it, to mature it, to become a angry, resentful, bitter person, who has a chip on their shoulder, condemning people for their failings,

then there's no reason to speak about forgiveness.
Notice Jesus did say to speak up. That's having the courage to be open and honest, risking sharing that you feel hurt. Not condemning the other person, blaming them so you can feel good about being right, but sharing with them the hurt you have.

This gives them the wonderful opportunity to repent.

I love the word, 'repent'. It means I can change, I don't have to live from my hurts, from other's thoughtless words, for resentful actions, but I can admit I'm going the wrong way and turn and follow Jesus, taking his hand, walking with him through life, enjoying his loving presence.

Once I've dealt with my hurt by taking it to Jesus and allowing him to minister to me, healing me, so that I can live from his loving presence, I'm wonderfully free to give what nobody deserves, and that is forgiveness, again, and again and again. To give forgiveness because that's what is flowing through me from Jesus, and because that's what the other person needs, for their good, to benefit them.