

for him to influence
the way I live.

The Good News is
that Jesus has an open
door to us, inviting us
to join him in his
wrestle with life. Isn't
that amazing, the God
of the Universe wants
you to share in his
life. To share in his
love, to the point you
are empowered to
love just like him,
beyond your wildest
dreams.

What a fantastic life
we have to live with
Jesus.

Let us pray.
Jesus help me not
give up on the wrestle
of life, but with you
might I be
strengthened and
matured in the way I
love like you do.
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

17 October 2010

KEEP WRESTLING

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5



The three readings for today all are impressing on me that in life we'll always have a wrestle, a struggle. And that wrestle, that struggle will tempt me to give up, to lose my focus and look for some easy solution, rather than continue to wrestle, to struggle.

We have Jacob who finds himself in a wrestle. In hand-to-hand combat with a stranger. He wrestles with him all night long, but doesn't give up. Who is Jacob wrestling with? I'd say Jesus, or at least an angel. So this is a God wrestle. At times we need to wrestle with God, to enter into real meaningful discussion about what

we don't understand, about what he's promised us. 'Why God have you allowed this to happen to me?' Life is full of God wrestling moments. Times where our relationship grows as we wrestle with him one on one.

That story always reminds me of when I was young and used to wrestle with my Dad. We weren't trying to hurt each other, but it was a time of testing. Testing of physical strength, and also a time of fun, where love was expressed. I reckon our heavenly Father loves to wrestle with his kids so that they know his love for them, testing

their strength and growing them to greater maturity in him.

Where is Jesus wrestling with you? What areas of life is he seeking to grow, to mature in you?

Paul's letter to Timothy reminds me that sometimes we can be tempted to give up and stop wrestling, stop struggling.

Paul's advice to Timothy; 'Don't give up'. Grab hold of God's word and wrestle. Wrestle so that your life; the way you live, how you make decisions and workout what's important, how you priorities your

spending, is shaped by your life with Jesus.

That's what solid doctrine is, the way you let Jesus shape the way you live.

I can know the creed off by heart, I can know that we are saved by grace, in Christ Jesus, through faith. I can know about the Trinity. I can know the difference between 'Law' and 'Gospel' and properly divide it as I read the bible. I can have all this knowledge, but if it doesn't shape the way I live then I've got really poor doctrine. If it doesn't shape the way I love, so that I love like Jesus, I've got really sick doctrine.

In Paul's letter to Timothy I get the impression that

people are giving up on the wrestle and are looking for a quick fix. "You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food – catchy opinions that tickle their fancy."

Solid Doctrine = the way you let Jesus shape the way you live.

(2 Tim. 4:3,4)

I know at times I'm tempted by the quick fix and don't always have the stomach for 'solid teaching', for wrestling with those around me, seeking to love them as I am loved by Jesus.

How does Jesus love you? He is prepared to die for you.

Sometimes I get a bit grumpy with situations, with other

people, which leaves me a long way from being prepared to die for them. At times I get frustrated, cause if people only did what I said, (not always do!) then everything would be fine. But that's not the nature of Jesus' love, where he gets personal, where he invests himself, where he's prepared to go without so that the other person will benefit according to their need.

Jesus' 'solid teaching' is a struggle. A struggle that I can't do without his power and strength. I certainly need to keep my focus on Jesus' amazing love for me, knowing I'm a loved child of God with whom he is pleased, so that I can give from what I have in Jesus.

Which reminds me of the gospel reading for today, which is about not giving up but praying instead. I'm to wrestle with God about the issues of life I'm facing. To go to him especially when I can't stomach 'solid teaching' because I want to give someone a good piece of my mind. That's when I definitely need to spend time in prayer, drawing on Jesus' strength so that I can do what he would do. So that I can love as he loves me, getting personal, sacrificing self, for the other person's benefit, according to their needs.

I know that I don't have it within me to love that way. And I know at times in the wrestle of life I'm left with a blank. I don't

know what to do. I don't know which way to go.

Thankfully Jesus does, and I can always ask him.

Otherwise I'm in danger of doing what's unjust. I know Jesus doesn't want me acting unjustly, so

I'm to wrestle with God about the issues of life.

he's given us this wonderful promise;

"Then the Master (Jesus) said, 'Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help?'" (Luke 18:6)

If I cry out for help to act justly, to act lovingly, will Jesus

listen? Certainly. In life's wrestle there will be plenty of times I don't know what to do, or how to do it, when I can cry out for help, so that I don't do something stupid and give Jesus a black eye. I certainly believe that Jesus wants us reflecting his nature in all that we say and do. In other words in the way we live. And especially to our sisters and brothers in Christ.

So today Jesus is reminding me to keep praying. To keep talking with him and not to give up on 'solid teaching', but keep crying out to him, asking to be led by the Holy Spirit so that the way I live reflects Jesus. So that my life is lived closely with Jesus, having an open door