

the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven; If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" (John 20:21-23) Did you notice; we're sent.

We have a mission in life, and Jesus has equipped us to do it. In Jesus, you're empowered to change the world. To change the world for better, for the best.

You're not an insignificant nobody; in Jesus' eyes, you're known, known by name, person to person. You're known by Jesus,

and entrusted with a wonderful privilege and opportunity. You're sent to find the Father's lost, loved children, that they too might also know that they are known by name, person to person through Jesus. They're not insignificant nobodies, Jesus sees them and has invested his life in them, body and soul.

Let us pray.  
Jesus thank you for not walking past me, but for giving yourself for me. For calling me by name, that I might

share your life with you, and come to know you and to know my true self in you. Help me to also invest my life in your mission, going and finding those precious children of the Father.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' Disciples, who grow disciples, who grow disciples...

3 April 2011

## WHO IS THIS MAN: JESUS—4

John 9:1-41



What do we get to know about who Jesus is through this encounter with the blind person? This story has been recorded so that we can get to know Jesus, the real person, to build a person to person relationship with him.

That's what is the heart beat of being a Christian; being in a person to person relationship with Jesus, the real Jesus, as he has chosen to reveal himself.

The first aspect of Jesus character and personality that I see, is that he sees. How many people had walked past that blind man, and not seen him for who he is? Have you ever felt like that, an invisible

person? People just look through you, don't listen to you, are

happily getting on with their lives totally ignorant your pains or joys. Have you ever felt like the invisible person?

I love seeing Jesus see this person, and invest himself in him. He's not invisible to Jesus, he's a person Jesus wants to get to know and share his life with.

The disciples look straight past the person and seek to enter a deep theological discussion. "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2)

Just a brief aside. Have you ever noticed that if you ask the wrong question, you'll never get the right answer.

The disciples are asking the wrong question, and so they don't see what

is staring them in the face. They don't see a living, breathing person in front of them, who needs their love, and a lot of practical help as well. The disciples just don't see what's happening at all.

This guy isn't a worse sinner than they are; they're on a par. In Jesus' eyes we're all on a par. We're all precious to him, but we're lost, unable to see him for who he is. Which means our relationship with Jesus is dysfunctional; we all need help. Not only to see Jesus for who he is, but to see ourselves clearly for who we are. We need a bit of self-revelation as well as Jesus revealing his heart and soul to us.

We get blinded with all our effort at being good, at being

worthwhile, at doing a good job so we'll be judged good; a worthwhile person, a hard-working person, a knowledgeable person, a caring person. Which labels do you put on? It's easy to be blinded to ourselves; we're all born lost, insecure, unsure of why we're here.

And wow, what an amazing revelation Jesus makes about this person and why he is there. "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." (John 9:3) This person has a powerful, life-changing reason for being.

Who wouldn't want their life to count for something, to have a purpose, a meaning, a worth. Here people are looking down on this person, simply because he was born blind. They've pushed him to the edges of their

society. They've got important theological discussions to have. Yet it's this very person who is used by God to make a difference in people's lives. It's this invisible person, to everyone else, who God uses to change the world for better.

Who wouldn't want

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### Jesus sees you

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their lives to have helped change the world for better? Who's lives in this encounter aren't making the world a better place? The theological debaters. A person born blind can now see, and if it was me I'd be celebrating, not debating the date.

Who's blind in this story?

It's 'Good News' that Jesus is able to see us,

and not look past us. Jesus is secure in his relationship with the Father, so he is able to look past himself, because he is secure, and see me. See me and reach out to heal me.

I'm as much a blind person from birth as that blind person. Blind to who I am. Blind to what life is about. Blind to why I'm here. Blinded by my own needs and insecurities that often I don't see you, but only a

means to meet my ends. And then I'm in danger of turning you into a commodity to make me feel good about life. It's easy to look straight past the person, and see what I need. To look straight past the person and see the nice facade that offers good shopping.

I also discover that Jesus is a man on a mission. He's been sent. Sent by his Father, to find his precious children, that once

again they might share life together, feasting at the Father's table.

Another aside. Who knows what the word apostle means? It means; 'Sent'. You're a sent person. You're a person with a mission in life. You're sent.

And the church, that's Jesus community here on earth, is described as being apostolic. Built on the apostles. Just last week I had a wonderful revelation. For I always thought that being built on the apostles was all about what they taught. So we could read what the apostles wrote and enter into a deep and meaningful theological debate.

But the word apostle means what? Sent.

Did you notice the name of the pool the blind person was to wash his eyes in? The Pool of Siloam, which means, 'Sent'.

Have you noticed, you can't be sent by staying put?

Where else in the Bible do we encounter a washing that heals us? Baptism. That's not a religious ritual, where we can debate the amount of water, or the timing, in earnest

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### Sent to find

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theological discussion. In Baptism, through Jesus, the Father notices you, and calls you by name. That's why we use the person's name, because through Jesus, you're not just a face in a sea of faces, but one of the Father's precious children he knows by name. And our Heavenly Father wants to pour his life into his children; they're the focus of his delight.

And we're also sent. Sent to make a difference in life. Sent to live lives of amazing worth and purpose, as we go. Go searching for more of the Father's lost, precious children, so they too can feast at the Father's table. So they too can know God for who he is, and to know themselves for who they really are in Jesus.

Have you noticed, you can't be sent by staying put?

In Jesus, God sees you, and that brings a smile to his face. In Jesus, God sees you as his loved child, delight of his life. You're not invisible or insignificant to him. To our Heavenly Father, to Dad, you're precious. Precious enough to give his life for, to die for, to go looking for.

Here's a passage from the Gospel of John which always blows my mind; "Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As