

What a great way to live. Not trying to be something, but letting who you are find expression in what you do. Jesus regal nature finds expression in the way he carries himself, even while everyone else is madly trying to destroy him to preserve their own little kingdoms.

Today I see a man whom I can trust, because he's not afraid to be real. Today I see a man whom I can follow, because he's not simply pushing his own agenda, to enrich himself. Today I see a real king, who comes to give of himself, and not take from the poor, but to enrich the poor with

his loving presence, his grace, his mercy, his hope for life, his peace.

Jesus comes to give world peace, for his is a kingdom of peace. A kingdom not built on the annihilation of his enemies, but he takes the worst I, we, humanity could give, and gives us his best; himself.

In the face of this king, I gladly die to all my aspiration of being king. My self-centred lifestyle doesn't have the capacity to give me peace of mind, let alone create a world of peace.

So today I gladly, 'deny myself, take up my cross and follow Jesus.' (Matt. 16:24) So that his kingdom grows, and many more people come to live in the peace that he is able to give.

Let us pray.
Jesus daily kill of the rebel within me. Please leave no survivors.
Grow in me a heart that trusts you, that loves you, that serves you, that is willing to die for you, so that your kingdom flourishes, for your benefit. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



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

17 April 2011

WHO IS THIS MAN: JESUS—6

Matthew 21:1-11



From this encounter with Jesus, what do we get to know about him? About Jesus the person. Jesus comes in person so that we might get to know him personally. Jesus doesn't call us to follow an idea, or a methodology, or a set of rules, but to enter a person to person relationship with him. Jesus wants us, you, to get to know him personally.

But first this encounter with Jesus tells me something about myself. It points to the heart of what has been labelled 'sin'. What it tells me about myself is that I don't want other people telling me what to do. I want to be my own boss. Don't you tell me what to do! This encounter with Jesus reveals that within me is a rebel's heart. I want to be in control of my

own life, making my own decisions according to what is best for me.

Today the rebel within me is confronted with a big problem, Jesus rides into town as king, The King. Who sees the problem?

When you have two kings competing for the same ground what do you have? I think we see the problem. I think we see God's problem; how does he remain king without killing the rebel? Jesus rides into town as king, The King of kings. Jesus rides into Jerusalem to be crowned king. This is the beginning of Jesus' coronation.

What happens to my aspirations of being king, of doing my own thing? What happens to my dreams of how I

want my life to work out? What's in it for me?

What sort of king is this Jesus?

He doesn't look like my perception of a king. He comes riding on a donkey. Does anyone see something odd here? Kings generally come in a display of grandeur, a display of wealth, a display of power and authority. At least you want your fifteen minutes of fame. A donkey just doesn't do it for me.

When I dream of being king, I dream of driving a Ferrari, not an old ute. When I dream of being king, I dream of the best, the best being there for; guess who? Me! What's with this donkey business? And then to top it off Jesus' crown is made of

thorns, and his throne is an executioners cross. A barbaric form of torture, to humiliate. This doesn't compute with my dreams of being king.

My dreams of being king involve people doing what I say, when I say, for my benefit. My dreams of being king have people serving me, so that I get what I want, living in the lap of luxury. But when you have a whole community of people with similar desires, what's going to happen? What's going to happen to a community of people who think the world revolves around them, that they're king; that the world owes them, that it exists to meet their needs. What's going to happen to a community of such people, with my king dreams, with my rebellious heart?

Jesus rides into Jerusalem, the capital

of the kingdom, to be crowned king. He comes riding on a donkey, because he doesn't come to suck the blood out of us to get what he wants. Amazingly Jesus comes to give, to serve, because he has what we need. Now that's a different sort of king, a king who seeks to serve

At heart I'm a rebel.

his kingdom, to give himself for those who live in his kingdom. Jesus doesn't come to lord it over us, but to serve us. Jesus is able to do this because he doesn't start at a point of need. That's where I start; helpless. Every person is born helpless. Without our parents, or someone feeding us, how far would we have gone? Jesus has everything he needs

through his Heavenly Father. Jesus isn't some insecure person trying to prove himself, trying to protect himself, try to make something of his life. Jesus has everything; that gives him the security to give, freely.

I get nervous, what if I give too much, then what about me. I could miss-out! So to make sure I have all I want I take. Now that's an interesting contrast; as king I'm a taker, but Jesus as king, he's a giver.

So Jesus comes riding on a donkey, because he's come to serve, to give, so that we might have what we need for life. Jesus comes riding on a donkey, because he is humble; that means he is totally secure in who he is. He doesn't need popular opinion, or our approval, Jesus is secure in who he is, secure enough to give

himself away, to serve, so that someone else benefits at his expense. And the thought of missing out just doesn't enter his head. Jesus is totally secure. Secure in his relationship with the Father.

I know that in myself, based on what I can do and achieve, I can never have that sort of security. The simple reality is that I haven't really gone beyond being a person who is helpless. I mightn't need someone to feed me, like when I was an infant, but I still need a plant, a plant that I struggle to understand, let alone create. Now that would be arrogance wouldn't it, to think I had the power to create the planet.

One power I know I do have is the ability to wreak things. Maybe with your help even wreak this planet, if we're all greedy enough I reckon we could just do it!

Part of Jesus' humility is that he isn't a self-appointed king. He isn't full of himself.

Do you know what the problem is with being full of yourself? There's no room for anyone else!

Jesus humility means

Jesus comes as KING. There can only be one

he's got plenty of room for you. Jesus isn't a self-appointed king, he has been anointed by the Heavenly Father. That was seen at his baptism. There Jesus in full public view was anointed by the Father to be 'The King'. And what does Jesus pray in the garden of Gethsemane, just before he is arrested? "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet

not as I will, but as you will." (Matt. 26:38) Jesus doesn't seek to set his own agenda, but he does the Father's will, according to his agenda. Even though that meant being crucified for all the rebels, so that they might have the hope of life.

Jesus isn't the sort of king who needs all the pomp and ceremony to give the illusion that he is important. Jesus rather strips away everything, till there is only Jesus. We see the real man, no pretence. No superficial facade to impress. No great advertising campaign. He strips it all away till all you're left with is the real person; Jesus. Jesus doesn't put on a good show to impress us. Jesus kingly character isn't something he puts on, but it comes from within. It's a reflection of his true character, which finds expression in what he does.