

way, to feather his own nest and the expense of the rest.

No, Jesus expends himself for the rest, the rest who don't deserve it. Jesus submits to the Father's will that he might create love in our hearts where there was once fear. Jesus has no place for anything that pushes away the people he loves. Jesus comes to create trust based on love, because we know that Jesus has used his life for our good, that we might benefit

according to our needs.

Jesus' coronation draws us in, draws us close, for in Jesus there is nothing to be feared; he's giving his all for us. Courageously giving is life in submission to the Father's will, that we might live in his kingdom, without fear, without intimidation, without the need to throw our weight around to get what we want. But out of love and trust we can learn how to serve as we are served, to forgive as

we are forgive, to care as we are cared for.

What a wonderful King we have in Jesus. What a wonderful kingdom he creates for us to live in, under his rule.

Let us pray. Jesus inspire me to have the same courage you displayed, that I might give my life doing your will. Jesus inspire me to daily submit to your will, so that your kingdom grows, your way, to your glory, honour and praise. Amen.

22 April 2011

WHO IS THIS MAN: JESUS—8

Good Friday



Today as we once again reflect on the crucifixion what does it reveal about Jesus character and personality?

I'm struck by Jesus' courage. This is not something that was unforeseen. Jesus life has been leading up to this moment. Jesus came for this moment, to give his life as a ransom for sinners. Here I see a man of great courage.

For Jesus knows he isn't just facing physical pain, as bad as it was, the real intense pain was emotional, was relational, was spiritual. Jesus feels the worst pain of all. He feels abandoned by his Father. He feels the crushing pain of the

curse of sin, and he is innocent. To walk into this knowing full well what was ahead of him took courage.

Jesus is obviously a man of courage.

I also see a person who doesn't throw their weight around to get what they want. The Priests used their position of power and influence to get what they want. And that was Jesus out of the way, so that they could preserve their nation and their temple.

The mob throws their weight around; screaming for Jesus blood. They helped bully Pilate into ordering Jesus crucifixion. They use their power and

influence to get what they want; Jesus death.

The soldiers throw their weight around, making fun of what must have looked to them a pathetic fool. After all why would anyone want to be the king of the Jews? And Jesus is just some rag-tag, very unimpressive bloke. Where's his army to overpower his enemies. These are Roman soldiers, conquerors of the world. Looking at Jesus certainly wouldn't have struck fear into anyone's heart. Rome knew how to strike fear into the hearts of their enemies. That was part of the reasoning behind crucifixion.

This is what happens to people who defy

Christ Church Lutheran

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



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

Rome. A slow, painful, humiliating death, sending a clear message. Rome doesn't tolerate any rivals. So be afraid, very afraid. There was no empty threat.

Jesus doesn't throw his weight around to get what he wants. Amazingly he does the opposite; he submits.

That strikes a raw nerve; to submit. I always get a response when I use the word 'submit' when talking about marriage. No-one is interested in submitting. Jesus submits to his Father's will.

What courage. What strength of character. What trust. Jesus submits because he knows he can trust his Father. With Jesus the word submit doesn't cause a fear and fight response. He trusts his Father, and does what

he says, no fear, no fight, but trusting submission.

Which creates a better world? Me throwing my weight around to get what I want. Fighting those who want to lord it over me. Or me submitting to Jesus' will, trusting him with my life,

Jesus is a man of courage

doing things his way.

What do we get when we have a whole community of people intent on throwing their weight around to ensure they get what they want?

Jesus submits. What courage that took. Especially when every fibre in his being was screaming out, wanting him to take control. How often is Jesus tempted to throw his weight around?

He is mocked as king, and he is the King of kings. What power and authority Jesus commands. He could have squashed those soldiers like meaningless maggots. But he doesn't, for Jesus isn't interested in intimidating people to get what he wants.

Jesus was tempted to terrify people with their taunts to come off the cross.

What terror would have gone through people's hearts if Jesus had jumped off the cross? It would have been so easy to do, but the outcome wouldn't have been Jesus' desired outcome. We don't need more fear and intimidation.

In the book of Revelation, one of the things that Jesus isn't happy with, within his church is those who follow the teachings of the Nicolaitans. The Nicolaitans were those

who used their power and position to build a hierarchical order from the top down. That's not a reflection of Jesus.

Jesus is a servant king; he doesn't throw his weight around. Jesus is submissive to his Father's will.

As I stop and reflect on Jesus I'm continually amazed how what he does goes directly opposite to what I would intuitively do.

Kings don't serve; they impose their will. Kings don't submit; they create submission, and if you choose to resist he will be punished. Kings are on the top of the pyramid, and the rest are there to obey, to do his bidding, to sacrifice their lives according to his will. This is the total opposite of Jesus.

Jesus courageously follows his Father's will, and builds a kingdom, where the king is at the bottom supporting the rest with his power and authority. Jesus is the servant king; for he comes to serve not to be served. Jesus came to give not take. Not to take for his own

Jesus uses his life to make a real difference

advantage, so he can feel good about himself.

Jesus is crowned king; on an executioners cross, wearing a crown of thorns. No great pomp and ceremony. No great show of wealth, of power and authority. Jesus' coronation looks nothing like what we would do.

He doesn't keep us at arm's length, but enters into the reality

of our lives in all their sin stained pain. Jesus follows the Father's will and embraces us, the real us, warts and all. That's real courage.

We don't have some theatrical display to impress others, to show off the power and wealth that we

wield. Jesus has the courage to be real, so that he might love the real you. So that he might

serve us with his life, freeing us that we might love the real people that we are.

The real people that Jesus our king creates us to be. Not an empty façade, looking all nice and pretty, but hiding the reality.

Jesus doesn't hide, but he has the courage to face things as they really are. And then he uses his life to make a real difference; for our benefit. Jesus doesn't throw his weight around to get his own