

discovering life the best Jesus can. And that has a wonderful eternal perspective. He has promised to return, that we might live forever with him in our Father's home.

Let us pray.  
Jesus thank you for all the promises you make. Thank you that you always keep your promises. That we can build our lives and our priorities on your promises. Jesus thank you for revealing to us that you have the power and authority to do what you say. Help us to daily make our

decisions and choices based on your promises; to bring you glory, honour and praise each time you show yourself trustworthy. Help us always build our priorities on your promises and not the empty offering of the world around us. Amen.

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## 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

4 December 2011

## HOW DO WE PRIORITISE? - 3

Mark 1:1-8



How do we prioritise? People often make their priorities based on a promise. Let me introduce you to Betty. She received a letter which brought her great excitement. I'll let her tell her story.

'I received this letter in the post, and much to my surprise it was from a solicitor in England, informing me that I was one of the last surviving relatives of a long lost Uncle. I've never had much money, so I was really excited.'

Poor Betty, we all know she has been conned. She's trusted a false promise, with no hope of ever delivering what it promises.

I'd like you to meet Eve, she's got an interesting story.

'Hi Tim, nice to meet you.'

'Eve could you please tell us your story.'

'I know it's only one of seven billion now, but then it was a different story. I was out in the garden enjoying the

sun, when I heard this strange voice. It went a bit like this; (seductive voice) "Hi Eve, darling.

Isn't this garden thing a bit unsophisticated? I've got something exciting; interested?" I know I should have said no, but I was

curious. And then he showed me this most beautiful, enticing fruit. I knew I just had to have it. After all one bite can't hurt.'

Poor world, the promise of that one bite was false hope.

What promises; either assumed or spoken do you build your priorities on?

The world is full of promises that we daily trust, or assume as we go about making our daily choices.

'Rocky when you look at this \$50 note what promises does it make to you?'

'We'll \$50 isn't much, but I could use it to take Valarie out for dinner tonight. At least we won't overeat!'

Did you notice that Rocky trusted a promise without even thinking about it. A \$50 note is really just a piece of plastic which has no intrinsic worth. But it carries a promise which is backed up by the Commonwealth of Australia.

'So Albert what have you discovered so far about promises?'  
'E=MC2'

'Ah so it is all relative.'  
'Precisely my boy. Relative to who is making the promise and the power and authority they have. So E, that's the Expectancy of the promise being filled is equal to the means for completion, squared.'

'Thanks Albert!!!'  
Today's Gospel reading recalls a promise that God made and it being fulfilled. God promised to send a messenger ahead of the Messiah, and John is the fulfilment of that promise. God is able to fulfil his promises, because he has the power and the authority.

When I was young many things promised life; life in the bright

lights. Life full of excitement.

I'd like to introduce you to Mr Dee Luded.

'Hi cool cats. I'm hip. I'm groovy man.'

'Hi Dee.'

'Yeh that's me; de-man. I'm livin' the

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### We build our Priorities on Promises

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good life. You some sort of square. Don't crowd me man, don't crowd me with your negativity. Life's all about the Disco, the music, the groove, dig it!

Have you noticed that life is full of empty promises that promise you the world but can't deliver? Each Christmas I think we get a taste of this. More gifts that you can poke a stick at in our shops, more food than we need

for a month, all opened and consumed in a day. What's the result? A society where greed is on the decline. People feeling content with life. A sense of well being permeating our communities.

Without Jesus, we find ourselves facing the same stuff, just a different day. Without Jesus the Christmas season is an empty promise.

Goodwill and peace to all. But we have economic fear. We have war. We have poverty. We have guilt. We have pain. We haven't got a community at peace. Christmas without Jesus is an empty promise that can't deliver what it promises.

Let me introduce you to one last person; Peter.  
'Hi Peter, I'd like to ask you one question. Has God's promises in Jesus helped you build

a life with healthy priorities?'

'You sure know how to come to the point Tim? And, you are asking me to expose my relationship with God! There goes my comfort zone!!!

The answer to that question is, a big yes. But I need to say up front that I had to find out exactly what God's promises in Jesus were, before I could even begin. Sounds like I've slept through a lot of sermons doesn't it.

I found that I had to get real about my relationship with God. I've spent most of my life 'pussy-footing' around with Him, not really getting serious. Getting involved in the SOAP series about 6 years ago got me started into actually finding Jesus, the man, and what he was really on about. I didn't know it then but I was

establishing probably the healthiest priority of my life to that point.

And as I learnt more about Jesus and the promises he made, I also learnt I could trust him. Trust..... it makes me think of the guy in the RAA commercials, but I can tell you I have never been big on trust.

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### Jesus has the Power to deliver on his Promises

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Most times I couldn't even trust myself! So it was a nervous step. But you know, the more times you do it the more you learn. God never lets you down.

Now when I started building that relationship with God I found my priorities in life changed. As your question inferred, I believe they've become healthier. Don't get me wrong, this is still very much a work in progress. If Jesus

thought the Disciples were dull at times, then he'd be tearing his hair out over me! The thing is to keep building that relationship, that friendship with Jesus,

I can only say that things have changed for me. I'm healthier because of it and so are, I believe, my priorities in life. I just wish I could convince Valerie to put caravanning higher up the list!

'Thanks Pete.'

I'm grateful that my life is built on God's promises in Jesus. His promise to forgive me. His promise in baptism to adopt me as his loved son, whom he wants to share his life with. His promise to listen and answer prayer. His promise to be with me in the person of the Holy Spirit, so I don't have to face life on my own, doing the best I can. Thank God in Jesus I have the promise of