

are citizens of heaven, but sometimes we have our foot on the love brake pedal, rather than the clutch pedal. There is a difference if you want to me moving and enjoying life.

Jesus calls us to follow him as we put into gear his way of living. As we join him in that exciting adventure of life following his example, doing what we see him doing, and so becoming an example for others.

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus helping us put our foot on the clutch pedal so we can select the right gear and enjoy driving through life with him. Pushing on the brake pedal will only make me stressed, and really crunch the gears.

May your life shine as you follow Jesus' driving instructions, celebrating life with him, living from who you are, the Father's child, whom he loves and is excited about discovering life together with.

Let us pray.  
Jesus thank you for helping me move through life, discovering your way of life. Open my heart, mind and soul that I might grow more and more, being true to who I am in you, no matter what area of life if find myself in. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



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

6 February 2011

## LIVING IN JESUS' KINGDOM—2

Matthew 5:13-20



Today I'm again reminded that we don't have the Sermon on the Mount to show us how to become a disciple of Jesus, but rather how Jesus' disciples are to live together in his kingdom.

And the way we live together will have an influence on those around us.

Which reminds me of the age old discussion, are elite sportswomen, or sportsmen role models. Can their private lives be separated from their professional life? We have a common term for when we separate our lives, living one way in a certain area, and living differently in another area of life. The term used to express this lifestyle is; hypocrite!

Jesus call today is to be authentic, to let our light shine as we live true to who we are in him. My father always would say to me before I went out on the town, 'Just remember who you are'. That's what Jesus is reminding us today. Live true to who you are.

Who are you?

In Jesus we are the Heavenly Father's children, whom he loves and is well pleased with (Matt. 3:17). So giving as good as you get when you lose your block isn't being true to who you are. You're the Father's loved child, with whom he is well pleased. You now have the wonderful ability to love as good as you get from the Father.

Would the world be a different place if each time a thoughtless word was spoken a loving response was given? Would the word be a different place if each time hurt was done a loving response was given?

Maybe that's part of the reason why Jesus says; "Blessed are those who are persecuted... Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me..." (Matt. 5:10,11)

Because here we have the opportunity to let our light shine as we live true to who we are. Here we have the opportunity to let Jesus shine through as we live out the difference his presence makes.

Anyone can give as good as they get. Anyone can let the hurts of life shape them. Anyone can burnout and lash out. Anyone can be kind to those who are kind and thoughtful. But to do your best for another person, who is persecuting you, being focused on; "building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Ephesians 4:29) Now that's going to make a powerful difference in life. That's going to breathe life into any relationship, into any family, into any marriage, into any community.

This isn't because we're trying to prove we're better than anyone else. We know we're not, but we are the Father's child, whom he loves and is well pleased with. How liberating life is when you live from what you have, rather than the

insecurity of trying to get what you don't have.

When my Dad asked me to do something for him, I didn't do it to get his love, but because I was loved by him, and I didn't want to hurt him.

When I hurt him because I did something dumb, it hurt

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**Don't forget who you are.**

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me, because I knew he loved me. I knew I was his son, whom he loved and was proud of. I was free to act out of love and not try and suck up to him because I wanted something.

Our Heavenly Dad doesn't want us sucking up to him, trying to impress him, trying to twist his arm. That wouldn't be letting my light shine. That not me being salt, but the opposite. The subtle twist is while I'm trying

to win another person's approval I'm actually being selfish. I'm living to get what I want!

What sort of society do you have when you gather a group of selfish people?

Jesus' kingdom isn't made up of selfish people, but the Father's

children, whom he loves and is proud of. Jesus' kingdom is wonderfully made up of people who can live true to who they are, no

matter what area of life they find themselves in. No matter what situation we find ourselves in we can be authentic, living true to who we are in Jesus.

We're not out to make a good impression and win people's favour. We're not out to get what we deserve, and get cranky when people take us for granted. That's just a formula for disappointment.

That's why in the Old Testament reading for today God tee's off and is angry with those who try to impress him with their religious rituals. They're holding a fast, to get something. To twist God's arm and if he doesn't deliver then why bother following him. If you want to get God cranky treat him like a commodity.

A commodity that you'll condone to use as long as it works according to what you want. Otherwise you'll

chuck it out for something that works. And if God can't make me happy, wealthy and wise, I'll go looking for the one who can.

Rather Jesus wants us to join him in life as we: "loose the chains of injustice... share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh

and blood..." (Isaiah 58:6,7)

This isn't Jesus telling us how to get him to like us, but rather how we can share life together.

When you learn to drive a car the first thing is to get a learner's permit. Then

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**You're the Father's child whom he loves and is pleased with.**

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you get behind the wheel and learn how to drive. We are Jesus' brothers and sisters, now we can, with Jesus, learn to live.

I remember when my sister was learning to drive a friend of hers offered to take her driving. They must have gotten into a real fluster, because they couldn't get the car into gear no matter how hard they tried. The gears just made that horrid grinding noise as

they tried to select a gear. They feared they had destroyed the clutch.

I think the owner of the car was more fearful than my sister.

After a little while they calmed down only to realise my sister had been pushing down on

the brake pedal and not the clutch! No matter how hard and how often she pushed on the brake pedal she was never going to operate the

clutch. Amazingly when she used the clutch the gears worked beautifully.

Because my sister was using the brake pedal instead of the clutch, did that make her a bad person? No, just one who wasn't going very far!!! Driving proved far less stressful and much more rewarding when she knew the difference.

We are licences to live in Jesus' kingdom. We