

meet yours out of respect.

The Fifth, 'Don't Kill'. Be a community of life not death. Follow Jesus and die to self, that others might live. I love the fact that Jesus is the God of life, of resurrection, and we can be a community that breathes life into each other.

Be faithful in marriage. The goal of life isn't sex. Be faithful in marriage.

Don't steal, rather protect, and help people get what they need for life. And if I have more than I need I'm placed in that wonderful position of being able to be generous. Let's be a generous community as our Father is generous.

Don't tell lies and gossip, but protect each

other's reputation using our words to build people up, not tearing them down, always speaking the truth in love, according to what the other person needs, for their good.

And give up letting what you don't have shape you. Greed isn't our creed. What would a community look like that was built on the mighty dollar, on what's in it for me, on the user pays? What would such a community look like?

Thank God that in Jesus we have the power and authority to build, and live in a community that is built on love for one another. A love which knows how to die for each other and not use each other simply to get what I want. Thank God that in Jesus we are able to live in his kingdom, a

kingdom built on God's very character. That character being infused in each of us as we are born the Father's children sharing his DNA. What wonderful potential we have.

Let us pray. Jesus thank you for coming and inviting us to stay with you, to share life with you. That's where we want to be. Grow us in our relationship with you, and keep growing us to be the community you've created us to be. Thanks for that wonderful potential. Help us to discover more and more of that wonderful potential as we trek through life with you. Amen.



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

16 January 2011

Trekking with Jesus

John 1:29-42



In the Gospel reading for today Jesus asks an interesting question; "What are you after?" How would you answer that question? What are you after?

I'm sure if you asked the people whose homes are flooded in Queensland, they might respond with; 'Our lives back to normal'.

What are you after; a life of trivial entertainment, more shopping hours, a bigger TV, a career, Peace, respect, life – life lived to the full, not entertained existence, but a life of significance, a life that is going somewhere. What are you after?

At first glance I find the response to Jesus' question a bit odd. What did the disciples say? 'Where are you

staying?' Did that strike anyone else as odd? Were they wondering if Jesus was in four or five star accommodation! 'Where are you staying?' feels almost like an anti-climax.

'What do you want?' surely they could have at least answered with; world peace! But they ask; 'Where are you staying?' And then they spend the rest of the day with Jesus.

That's when the lights went on; they spend not only the rest of the day, but as Jesus' disciples, they spend the rest of their lives with Jesus. They are now with Jesus, enjoying each other's company, sharing life together with Jesus and each other.

Jesus is the answer to; 'What are you after?'

Living with Jesus as his disciple is the answer to; 'What are you after?'

Do you want to live a significant life, a full life that brings a sense of joy of usefulness, of love and rich fulfilling relationship? Jesus is the answer.

The disciples don't ask for a thing, or an experience, but to share life with Jesus. And the Good News is that if you asked Jesus; 'What do you want?' His answer would be: you. You and me, sharing life together with him, as the Father's loved children, in community.

Sharing life together, discovering the joys of life together, growing in that most wonderful

relationship we have with the Father. Growing to ever greater maturity, discovering all that it means to be one of the Father's children. Discovering how to live in relationship with him and all the members of his family. A relationship which is based on the Father's amazing grace and mercy, the Father's amazing love.

That's what Jesus wants. What are you after?

What would be some helps in sharing life with Jesus, as we together trek through life with Jesus?

One of the big stories in the Old Testament is how God gathers a community of people to come and trek through life with him. He rescues these people from slavery in Egypt so that they can share life together, in an open and honest relationship. Where God reveals

himself so that they can live together, not as strangers, but upon a relationship of trust. They always have God's promises to rely on; they can trust him.

What is God after? Living in community with us, with all his children. Living in community which is

What are you after?

characterised by his very nature and presence. Living in community where people love one another, care for one another, serve one another, die for one another, because as children of the Father, that's their true nature.

One aid we have from this time for living life together as the as the Father's children in Jesus, is the Ten Commandments. Isn't that interesting, the Ten

Commandments were given as an aid for life together. They were never given so that we could make ourselves holy, or acceptable to God. In Jesus we already are. In Jesus, through your baptism, you are one of the Father's children, whom he loves, and is eager to share his life with. How do we do it?

God gives ten simply guides. First remember it isn't about you. God, in Jesus is at the

centre of his community, and not me. It's me fitting in with Jesus' plans and dreams, not Jesus fitting in with what I want. Jesus' community works well when he is at the centre and we all take our cue from him. Trouble always comes when everyone wants their own way.

Have you noticed that when you have too many chiefs conflict occurs? The first step

for a healthy community, for a healthy family, for a healthy marriage, for a healthy self-image, Jesus is chief. Jesus is Lord. Jesus is the King. It is all about him, I'm part of the supporting cast, not the central role. My life is built around the central character; Jesus.

What's the Second Commandment? Do it in Jesus' name, in Jesus' power and authority, and not your own. What a wonderful gift we have that we live and operate under Jesus' power and authority. What a wonderful strength to face and live life in. I know my strength and it's limits. I get tired. I don't have all the facts and make flawed decisions. Thank God I can rely on Jesus' strength as my King, to live life in all his fullness.

Jesus' strength gives me the ability to be open and honest with

God, which is a foundational attribute for any healthy relationship. But is also a big challenge. In Jesus I can be open and honest with God. I can draw on the strength of that relationship and seek to be open and honest in all my other relationships.

What is Jesus after?

The Third Commandment is? "Remember God's special day and keep it holy." Which has very little to do with not working, to prove myself, and realising that relationships take time. At least one day a week of focused time together. When I'm working what has got my attention? Hopefully my work. Often simply because it has taken me out of the family home and to a different environment.

Relationships take time. One of the greatest killers of any relationship is to take things for granted and not invest enough time. Then any relationship will waste away.

To have a healthy community with Jesus at the centre takes focused time. Time alone with Jesus, and time together with Jesus. At least a whole day according to God's way of thinking.

The Fourth Commandment reminds me to give other people respect. 'Respect your father and your mother'. Don't demand your rights, rather give respect. Don't wait for people to earn respect, or deserve it, take the initiative and give it. What a wonderful community we'd be living in if everyone you meet showed you respect, and was willing to sacrifice themselves, their needs and wants to