

And then amazingly he says; "As the Father sent me, I'm sending you". We're not only loved and precious, we have a passionate purpose to join Jesus in living out.

Today don't be a sitting duck; our old sinful nature, death and the devil are out to get you. Today commit, re-commit to spending time with Jesus, so you know what he says, what he loves, what he's passionate about doing, then out of trust in him, do it. Spend time with Jesus letting him into your life, into your soul as in prayer you open up to him, as you get real talking with him about your struggles, your joys, your hopes and dreams, your temptations in life.

Don't be a sitting duck, being sucked in by the Devils bright lights, luxurious living, sensory overloaded highs, which only leave you as rotting

compost. As one famous French philosopher wrote; 'We're nothing more than complicated food for worms.' Walk away from Jesus, that's the direction the devil is leading. All his bright lights don't bring life. Jesus does. A life that is full of the Father's love, full of real lasting purpose as we join Jesus in extending the Kingdom of Heaven.

Today let's all recommit to spending time with Jesus; listening to him and then finding two others to share with regularly. Jesus clearly wants us to take on this fight together and not alone. So also recommit yourself to your home group giving it priority, or pray about joining one and actively supporting, encouraging, caring for each other. Jesus clearly wants us to get personal and take on this fight together, supporting each other.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for making us aware of the enemy; our old sinful nature, death and the devil. Draw us close to you and each other that we might join with you in the fight for life, our life, the life of those we love, and for the life of our nation and of our world. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we give priority to reading your word, talking with you in prayer, and joining together in groups of three and home groups taking up the fight together with you. 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 July 2011

PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Today I have good news; you have an enemy! In the parable Jesus told, an enemy came and messed things up by sowing weeds among the good grain. And what a sneaky enemy, it wasn't obvious at first that there were weeds.

Why is it good news knowing you have an enemy? Because then you're not a sitting duck. You now have the opportunity to do something about it, because your enemy is only too willing to lead you up the garden path to the compost heap and watch you rot. The Devil delights in watching you rot.

The enemy Jesus mentions is the Devil. Who knows what caused the devil to fall? He was so full of himself that he wanted to take control and do his own thing. The Devil was so full of his good looks and position

that he had no time for God but wanted to enjoy looking at his own image, setting up his own followers who would adore him. He wanted to be idolised. The Devil wanted to take control and do his own thing, being his own god.

And what was his temptation for Adam and Eve? "You won't die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God..." (Gen. 3:5 Msg) You'll be just like God, that is what caused the Devil to fall, his desire to be in control and do his own thing, for his own profit. After all he was so beautiful why shouldn't he get a bit of praise. He was worth it. Why should God get it all?

Today we have good news, we know we have an enemy, and we know

his name and we also know how he operates.

Did you notice in the parable Jesus told that the difference between the weeds and the wheat wasn't at first noticeable. The Devil's mode of operation is to be deceptive. He paints a pretty picture that looks appealing, that looks right, but the fruit it bears is rotten. You end up with weeds, not a harvest that sustains and grows life.

The Devil made the 'Forbidden Fruit' look desirable. It offered a rich new experience of life. Why not take it. After all if it looks good, sounds good it must be good for you. Wrong! Adam and Eve were lead up the garden path and were left to rot.

The Devil's joy is in striking at God's heart, and he knows that God has invested himself heart and soul into people. God

made us in his image, so that we could know his love and return his love. So we could have a most wonderful, intimate, loving relationship. To lose his children breaks the Father's heart.

Did you notice that the Devil doesn't care about you, he's just using you to get even with God. He's angry and hurt and will do anything to cause the same pain. Have you ever noticed that when you're feeling angry and hurt you act angry and hurt? The Devil is out to get even, seeking revenge, but vengeance can only destroy and never produce life. Definitely not the rich and full life that God has in mind for the children he loves.

So what is our best defence so we don't get caught unawares?

I've already mentioned being aware, you're not living in a peaceful world. We do have locks on our doors for good reason. Jesus is reminding us today to be aware. Don't just accept everything you're told, test it.

How do we test and see if something is full of life or will leave you rotting with the garbage?

It all comes down to an act of trust. Who do you trust with your life?

With Adam and Eve, God had clearly said; 'Don't eat from that tree or you will die.' Now that is

Who do you trust with your life?

fairly clear to me. It's not a hard message to understand; eat and you die. But then they heard another voice which enticed them to look at this food as good. No, more than good, desirable. More than desirable, they had to have it. They had to have it to make their life complete. A great feeling of need welled up within them, a feeling that needed to be gratified.

Adam and Eve, just like us, end up with a decision based on who do you trust. Who do you trust with life, with your life?

Good News, Jesus invites us to trust him. Jesus reveals to us what is on his heart and soul, so we can get to know him personally. And when I look at Jesus I see a person who was prepared to give his life for me.

More than that, Jesus took God's wrath, so that justice could be maintained. For without

justice there can never be peace. So Jesus suffered the horrors of God's wrath, so that I might know the joy of God's grace and

mercy. So that I can know his commitment to me isn't shallow and self-serving, but deep and real. Jesus has gone to the cross and sacrificed himself, so that I might be restored as the Father's child. So that we might be restored as the Father's loved family, he delights in sharing life with.

The one thing our enemy doesn't want is us trusting Jesus. That is the very relationship he is out to destroy. If he's missing-out on the Father's love, he's vindictive enough to make sure you do to. He

hates the Father with a passion and wants to inflict as much heart felt pain as is possible. Every child lost is an arrow of hate fired into the Father's heart, because he birthed us to share life together. To be loved and to love as he does in return, discovering an incredibly rich and full life, beyond our wildest dreams.

Jesus has come so that we might be redeemed, brought back from slavery to all that leaves us rotting in the garden.

Jesus paid with his life, so that we once again might have the possibility of enjoying life with the Father, discovering his amazing character of grace and mercy. Discovering a love beyond our wildest dreams that in no way could we have ever produced ourselves.

Simply put our greatest defence is Jesus. Our greatest defence is trusting him with our lives. Not my logic. Not my emotions. Not my gut feelings. Not my intuition. Not my education. Not my sense of right and

wrong. For one thing, none of these love me. They can't. Jesus does. My greatest defence in life is to trust Jesus taking him at his word.

If Jesus says the tree will kill you, I'll believe him and leave it alone. Even if everyone else is munching away looking like they're having a ton of fun. I don't trust myself more

Jesus invites you to trust him.

than Jesus. I know I can be fooled, and often I fool myself thinking because I want something it must be good for me. After all everyone else is doing it, how can it be wrong? Did you notice that satanic whisper in your ear? Looks good, tastes good, You've got to try at least once to know if it is for you?

No I don't. Jesus knows and I trust him with my life. I'll trust him enough to admit when I've been sucked in. I won't make excuses, because I know I

can trust Jesus enough to be real and admit when I'm wrong. Then he has the opportunity to say, 'I forgive you, live in peace'.

My best defence is knowing Jesus intimately. Not a text book character, but the real person who has given his life for me, so that I might share life with him as one of the

Father's loved children, whom he delights in sharing life with.

I get to know Jesus, as with any relationship,

by making the time to listen to him and to talk with him. By being open and real with him, risking revealing my soul, letting him in. Because of sin this has become scary business. The fear of hurt has barriers flying up everywhere. The devil loves to play on our fears and insecurities. He loves to see us jump in the bushes and hid from God like Adam and Eve. But with Jesus there is nothing to fear; he comes and stands in the midst of our fears and says; 'Peace be with you'.