

could have been self-righteous, after all he is perfect. Which is something I lack, just a bit!

What effect does complaining, moaning and groaning have on people? Sucks the life out of them. No wonder Jesus doesn't do it, he's come to breathe his life giving breath into us. So Jesus doesn't get stuck into this woman for being an immoral slut, but he gently offers her life.

I think he knows her pain, and doesn't want to add to it, but to save her for life, life with

him. Jesus wants this woman to live life in his Kingdom, finding her security in him, finding her identity in him, finding her passion for life in him. And what an amazing difference Jesus makes.

This woman brings life to her town. The very town that rejected her, leaving her in the dark edges. Jesus uses this very unlikely person to bring life, and real love to this community. Which always makes me glad, cause that means Jesus can even us a boring old bloke like me. Nothing's impossible with Jesus.

Let's pray.  
Jesus grow me to be like you, a person of; real confidence, trustworthy, courageous, passionate about people. Passionate about loving people as you do; sacrificially. Amen.

27 March 2011

## WHO IS THIS MAN: JESUS—3

John 4:5-42



Over the last two weeks we've been getting to know Jesus. Which after all is the whole reason Jesus came. That we might get to know him and share his life with him. Jesus has a passion for people.

Week one was the 'Temptation of Jesus' where I was struck by Jesus' confidence. Not a cocky confidence or one that had the odour of arrogance, being full of himself.

Do you know what's the problem with being full of yourself? There's no room for anybody else. Now that's a lonely place to be.

Jesus wasn't full of himself, rather he believed what his Father said. Let's hear it again. I can't hear this too often; "This is

my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life." (Matt. 3:17)

If I'm honest with myself, some days I struggle to believe this and seek to find my confidence in what other people say about me. I seek to find my confidence in doing what I hope other people will praise as a good job.

Jesus doesn't have an identity crisis, he believes the Father, heart and soul. That's the source of his confidence, to step out then and do what his Father says.

Week two, I was reminded that Jesus loves people. Jesus invested himself in Nicodemus, spending time with him. And in that encounter Jesus

was shown to be trustworthy. Nicodemus took a risk coming to see Jesus, and he wasn't put down by Jesus. Jesus isn't interested in condemning people, we do enough of that ourselves. He could have stayed in heaven and saved himself a lot of misery. No Jesus comes to set us free so that we can live in his Kingdom, growing to maturity as his disciples.

Jesus didn't come to be proven right in some debate. Jesus thankfully isn't self-opinionated. Jesus has come to invest himself in us. Jesus loves people, and proves himself to be trustworthy. He's not out to win an argument but to win you.

Today we see Jesus as a man of courage, who

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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...

isn't controlled by the barriers that we set up to make ourselves feel secure. Adam and Eve clothed themselves with fig leaves hiding their real selves. I'm tempted to hide my real self, after all who'd want to spend time with boring old me! People want to be around someone who is enthusiastic, who is dynamic and full of life. We want to hang-out with the successful people, and hope some of it rubs off.

looking for people, where they are hiding. Maybe that's a better image for sin; we're hiding, and can't find ourselves. Sin isn't the opposite of good; because where do we most often choose to hide? In what we perceive as our successes. In the good

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### Passion without the courage to act kills love

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In life we hide by trying to out-do each other, and then when that doesn't work we hide by putting ourselves down; with a hidden hope that this will attract people to lift us up. 'You're not that boring – out of ten, you're only an eight. Cheer up, somebody else is more boring!'

we do, that's where we like to hide. Where we get so successfully lost. When I'm dressed in all my successes that's when I feel most presentable. Jesus encounters a woman who isn't a success, but seems to be a social outcast. Why else would you go to get water in the heat of the day, on your own, rather than in the cool of the day, with everyone else?

Jesus doesn't play these games, because he has nothing to hide, and nothing to prove. So he has the courage to go

If Jesus is to make contact with this woman, he is in danger of being dragged down to her level. Socially you want to be moving up, not down.

Jesus should keep his distance, maybe pretend she's not there, that way he'll be safe. Definitely don't make any eye contact. You wouldn't want to be dragged down and have your reputation tarnished.

Isn't it wonderful to be reminded today that Jesus chose to be dragged down to our level. In Romans we heard that wonderful reading; "Jesus presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway...God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him." (Rom. 5:6,8)

All we could do was drag Jesus down to our level. Why in heaven would he want to do that! Why would anyone chose to leave the beautiful people to hang-out with the losers?

Jesus is revealed today as a person of courage, who is prepared to back his passion with action. Passion without the courage to act is one of the greatest killers of love.

Jesus has the courage to risk his reputation, to risk losing and being labelled; 'friend of sinner'. Jesus has the courage to risk it all, so that this person might come to know real love. She's been burned how many times before, five, and the bloke she's with now isn't her husband.

Was she trying to protect herself by not committing this time, just encase it all fell

apart again? Maybe it wouldn't hurt as much this way, or was it just convenient to have someone to offer her a safe place.

Jesus came with something different to offer; love which had the courage to sacrifice, for her good, so that she might benefit.

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### Jesus hasn't come to take but to give

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In Jesus we don't find a person with immature sentimental feelings without the courage and wisdom to bring those feelings to life, to maturity. Jesus doesn't take the life out of her, leaving her an empty vessel, like so many others. Rather he sacrifices himself that she might find life, that she might know she is loved, not for what the other person might get, but because Jesus simply seeks to give.

He hasn't come to take but to give.

Jesus isn't lacking anything. He's secure in his Father's love; confident, trustworthy, courageous. Jesus lacks nothing, so he has everything to give.

I'm impressed how in all these situations Jesus doesn't become a moaner, groaner, complainer. He could have complained to the Father how unfair it was to be left in the wilderness, no food for forty days. 'Dad, what were you thinking!' But Jesus doesn't complain, he trusts.

Jesus doesn't moan about Nicodemus; the world's in a mess and all you can do is indulge in more talk.

Jesus doesn't groan about how horrible this woman has lived. He doesn't quote to her; 'You're reaping what you sowed'. Jesus