

in the dark like a mushroom.

So Jesus risks revealing his heart and soul, because then you can risk revealing your heart and soul, and that's how you grow a healthy, vibrant, loving relationship. Which is also what Jesus calls worship, being real with him because you trust him, not needing anything else, just Jesus, only Jesus.

What's causing you to hide at the present and eroding you having healthy, vibrant, loving relationships? What are you being tempted to build hoping it will hold onto the moment and save you?

Today Jesus invites us to come out of hiding, he can be trusted. He's not going to yell at us

or belittle us. You can trust him with your life, he's given his life for you. Today Jesus invites you to tear down those structures you trust in, those lifeless institutions so that you're left with Jesus, only Jesus. He's alive, and able to embrace you in his life-giving love. A relationship which can breathe health and vitality into all your other relationships, as you find the security to be open and honest. Open and honest with yourself, loving yourself because you are loved. Open and honest with others, not hiding from each other, but letting Jesus influence all of life.

Let us pray.
Jesus, thank you for being open and honest with us. Help us find our security in you, and to love ourselves as you do. Not because of what we can do but because of who we are in you. Heal those relationships where we are hurting, where we are struggling at the present. Give us the courage to risk being open and honest, that we might give up crucifying each other. We know you've been crucified enough for us all. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



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

6 March 2011

JESUS TRANSFIGURATION

Matthew 17:1-9



Who likes to be left in the dark? I'm sure nobody enjoys being treated like a mushroom. In fact part of the art of having a healthy relationship is keeping things in the open. The idea isn't to keep things as much a secret as you can but to shed as much light on what is happening as you can. Which I find easier said than done.

Unfortunately one of the legacies of sin is that we like to hide. It's almost an inbuilt response when we're looking for security. Adam and Eve's first instinct was to hide. They hid from each other; "they realised they were both naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves." (Gen. 3:7)

What a sad thing to read when only at the end of chapter two we read; "The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt on shame." (Gen. 2:25) Here we have a beautiful relationship which is open and honest, with nothing to fear. But that's not the way it is anymore. We've hidden from each other, seeking security in the dark. But treating people like a mushroom doesn't grow a healthy relationship. Have you ever felt that?

Today Jesus doesn't leave us in the dark, but risks revealing himself. Revelation is always a risk; you could be misunderstood, it could be used against you, or the other person might let you down, or not response by being open

and honest with you. You could be rejected.

Have you noticed that revealing yourself to another person is risky? If it wasn't there wouldn't be so much hiding going on; we hide behind what we believe is respectable, we hide in our achievements – surely that makes me a person of worth, a person who is worth showing respect to, wanting to be around. We try to impress so that we are accepted and liked. The hiding instinct is deep within us all.

Jesus wants us to be growing healthy relationships. So he knows we need to have a rock solid security to live from. Otherwise I'll always be hiding, not just from other people but firstly from myself.

It's hard to grow a healthy relationship when you're hiding from yourself. When you don't like yourself, let alone love yourself. Then you'll be forever seeking to prove yourself. Which is tiring. I expend myself trying to be a good person, cause I know if I'm not a good person the other label is bad. I don't want to be labelled bad, that's why as a society we've tried to make bad the new good!

Thank God that in Jesus I'm a loved person. Loved by God. He's risked revealing his heart and soul, so that I know I'm precious to him. Jesus doesn't use the 'good', 'bad' labels. Jesus loves you, good or bad has nothing to do with it. Jesus loves you, because that's who Jesus is. Jesus is the Father's loved Son.

The Father reveals; "This my Son, whom I

love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him." (Matt. 17:5b) Or as the Message paraphrased it; "This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of my delight. Listen to him." (Matt. 17:5b Msg) Jesus has total security; he's the focus of his Father's delight. Jesus is free to love

because he is loved. Here we are given a glimpse of the wonderful open and honest relationship God the Father and God the Son share. We are given a glimpse of God's heart. Here God risks. Risks being open with us at the expense of being misunderstood. And did you notice Peter misunderstands. He wants to do what? Build! Have you ever sought security in

buildings? Or in building a good structure, a good institution? Where as a church community do we look to for security? Peter totally misunderstood, in fact he didn't know what he was saying. Jesus loved him anyway, but didn't let him build.

What is Jesus intent on building? Definitely not three shelter sheds. Not even a grand temple like Solomon did. Once again God was misunderstood. Jesus doesn't want buildings but people. Jesus' temple is made of living stones; that's people. So we read; "you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5) If we built a temple, a place set aside specifically for

Take the Risk

in isolation from Jesus. How hellish that would be.

Would it be safe to say that once we over invest in building things our relationships start to fail. I spend more and more time building my career, what suffers? My marriage, my family,

Be Open & Honest

my significant relationships. I get more and more possessions, and soon I have to work harder to pay for the upkeep on them all!

Jesus didn't let Peter build his three shelter sheds, rather the Father spoke, and they crumbled in fear. "When the disciples heard it, they fell flat on their faces, scared to death. But Jesus came over and touched them. 'Don't be afraid.' When

they opened their eyes and looked around all they saw was Jesus, only Jesus." (Matt. 17:6,7) I love that; 'all they saw was Jesus, only Jesus'.

Did you notice we're left with a person? A person who has risked revealing more about himself, so that we might know him better, so that we might trust him. Trust him enough to be real with him, and not play games.

Pagan worship is playing games with God, which Jesus hates. He doesn't want to be isolated from life, he's come to share his life with you, every little bit of it. Even what you might call boring, Jesus loves it all, cause he loves you to death. Jesus doesn't want to be kept in a box and given gifts to get him perform at our whim. That's not a healthy, vibrant loving relationship. Jesus doesn't want to be kept

worship, what might we be tempted to believe? That we only worship there, which is a pagan idea, not a Christian one. We would even be tempted to believe that the people who work at the temple are somehow holy, sacred, and the rest secular. Then we'd have sacred work and secular work. Which again is pagan not Christian.

Did you notice our lives are the spiritual house, in which we're all priests, and the way we live, talk and breath is our sacrifice. As Christians there is no time I'm not sharing God's life with him. Every moment is shared with him through the Holy Spirit, every moment I have the opportunity to love as I am loved. Everything I do is an opportunity to do what I see Jesus doing, to his glory, honour and praise. I don't think there is a moment of life I would want lived