

Now that's a sad story, they were locked behind closed doors because they were frightened of the bullies, frightened that they might be next. That's no way to live, is it.

But after their encounter with the risen Lord Jesus, there's no scaring these people, they've come out from behind those locked doors and are let loose to breathe Jesus' life into all they do. They infect the world with Jesus, changing the world. What an exciting change. What a world transforming change. They now have the power and authority to breathe Jesus' peace into all they say and do. They don't come to dominate, but to

serve, to give their very best, to give themselves, so that other people might come to be part of Jesus' story.

So as they become part of Jesus' story they can discover the excitement of living with Jesus. They can live courageously with Jesus. They can live from his power and authority, and not just be a lot of hot air, but breathe life as they tell Jesus' story to everyone they meet, living that story in every aspect of life.

Today I'm reminded that Jesus wants me to be part of his exciting story, to be living courageously; being true to who he has created me to be. Not seeking to be number one, trying to

domineer others to get what I want, when I want. Jesus has empowered me to breathe his change into the word in every breath I take. In Jesus I'm empowered to live his way, now. In Jesus I'm empowered to be living life with him, now. The discovery of our wonderful future in Jesus has begun.

Let us pray.
Jesus thankyou for making us part of your story. Help us to tell this story with our lives; in the way we walk, talk, work and play. Fill us with your courage so that we daily live out your story, bringing your peace and love, changing everything. Jesus, give us your courage to live the change we are in 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...

1 May 2011

WHO IS THIS MAN: JESUS—10

John 20:19-31



The Gospel reading for today contains what is for me some of the most powerful words of Jesus; “Jesus repeated his greeting: ‘Peace be with you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.’ Then he took a deep breath and breathed on them. ‘Receive the Holy Spirit,’ he said. ‘If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?’” (John 20:21 Msg)

I find this an exciting, challenging and empowering word of Jesus.

It’s exciting to be part of Jesus’ story. Jesus’ story is one of high drama, and the discovery of real love.

He is born into a world at war. His story almost finishes before it gets going. He’s born at an inappropriate time and in an inappropriate way. Jesus didn’t fit into Joseph and Mary’s plans for the future. But thankfully Joseph and Mary did fit into Jesus’ plan for the future.

And Jesus does have a plan for the future. A plan he’s invited us to be part of, to fit into his plans for the future. And Jesus’ plan is exciting. Who doesn’t want to change the world to become a better place? In Jesus’ plan you’re an active part of his world change. Change that will produce world peace. Change that will produce love, and

we all know that what the world needs now is; love sweet love.

Jesus isn’t into just existing, or being a spectator from afar. If he wanted to do that he would have stayed in heaven, but he’s excited about sharing his life with us. So Jesus has jumped in the deep end. He’s poured his whole being into creating a world at peace, a world characterised by love, by a love which is willing to die for the other. Jesus is excited about life, about living life to the full, living life free of all that cripples, maims, destroys, living life in enriching, loving, supportive, caring, equipping relationships. Living in a world with

nothing to fear, and an exciting future to discover with him.

Jesus' story isn't only exciting, it is also challenging. Jesus' story costs. It cost him everything; he dies abandoned, betrayed, ridiculed, he dies. Jesus is attacked because of what he stands for, because of the change he wants to bring. Jesus is attacked, because there are forces which want

to keep the status quo, there are forces that want to impose their future on us.

Jesus' story is challenging, because whether I like it or not, it reveals conflict. We live in a state of conflict, a dangerous place to be. A perilous environment.

But Jesus courageously enters life, willing to take on this danger, that his future of peace, of

love might be a reality, and not just a distant, unattainable dream.

Jesus story is a superhero story, but with a twist.

Jesus doesn't simply become the biggest bully, able to beat up any opponent, because he's the biggest and strongest. Then Jesus

Jesus' story is exciting, challenging, empowering.

wouldn't have changed anything, let alone create world peace. He'd have simply become the latest tyrant in a long line of tyrants, all be it a very nice person. But dominating, imposing your will through threats, intimidation and violence is part of the world's problem, not part of the solution which will create peace.

Jesus is incredibly courageous as he takes

up the fight, by being willing to be hurt, and not to hurt back, but stay true to himself.

Stay true to the loving relationship he lives with the Father. So

Jesus takes the worst that can be dished out, and courageously gives back his very best; his life. For his goal is that we too

share in his life, celebrating life together, discovering his future together.

Jesus doesn't become the next one on top of the pyramid, he destroys the pyramid and creates a world where the goal is not to be dominant, number one, but the goal is to give your best; you life. So that others might discover life, life lived in all its fullness, a celebration of life, feasting on all the good things our heavenly Father has for us, together with Jesus discovering an exciting future.

In the world Jesus has created there is no place for those who want to be number one at the expense of another person. The door is locked firmly to anyone who wants to be on top of the pyramid.

In Jesus' world there is only one King, and that's Jesus. So we don't have any need of a president, or a prime minister to rule over us. Jesus is our King, who is courageous enough to use his power and authority that we might be secure, that we might be loved, so that out of this wonderful secure, loving environment, we might act selflessly, that we might act courageously like Jesus. Always seeking to give our best, even if everyone was to give their worst, because we live

motivated by who we are. In Jesus I am secure, loved, empowered to be courageous. In Jesus I have an exciting future to share, an exciting life to share, a world at peace to tell other people about.

What courage we find in Jesus' story, as he

Jesus invites you into his story; NOW

secure in the Father's loving relationship, selflessly gives his life on the cross. Not being defeated, but there wanting to rule, imposing themselves, using their strength to get their own world, their own way. Jesus' courageous death on the cross but a death to all that rubbish, and opens up a wonderful new way of life.

Jesus story is also a story of

empowerment. In Jesus we are changed, and so we can now live the change we are.

In Jesus we can live the change we hope to see. We can be the change we hope to see, and not just be a lot of nice words which come to nothing. In

Jesus we're empowered to bring about the reality of what he says; and not be just so many empty words.

I find that exciting to. We're empowered to live this life of change that Jesus has invited us to live with him. So that change starts now. Notice Jesus greeting to his disciples; 'Peace be with you'.

That's not just a nice Hebrew way of saying G'day. No, Jesus' words are creative. His presence creates peace. Peace to a bunch of frightened people; stuck behind their locked doors.