

what's on our heart and soul. Making time for each other building a close, intimate, loving relationship. Talking with Jesus won't end when he returns, it'll only intensify and become richer and fuller. That's something special to look forward to; sharing time with Jesus enjoying each other's company, sharing from the heart, laughing together. In prayer we get a taste of this wonderful communication of this wonderful relationship where we can enjoy

spending time together in each other's company.

What we're left with reveals what is important.

Let us pray.

Jesus, we look forward to your return. Help us to prioritise this life according to what will be left when you return. Help us invest our lives in building a close relationship with you,

spending time together being open and honest, enjoying each other's company. Help us invest our time in loving people as we are loved by you, so that they to grow in knowing you and aren't lost when you return. Give us all a burning passion to tell others about you that they too might be saved for life with you. Amen.

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## 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

27 November 2011

## HOW DO WE PRIORITIES? - 2

Mark 13:24-37



Last week we began looking at the theme; 'How do we prioritise?' My first thought is that I'd prioritise according to what is most important. If my house was on fire would I wait till I'd finished watching the quarter, or would I spring into action to put out the fire? I guess it depends if it was the last quarter of the grand final!

How do we work out what is most important?

Jesus reveals today one of the criteria to use when determining what is important. He points to his return and the fact that this world is only temporary.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (13:31) This reminds me that what is left reveals what is important.

When Jesus returns what of your life will be left? What will happen to your bank balance? If you die before Jesus return you won't have one. What will happen to your house, your car, your education, your career? When Jesus returns what of your life will be left?

Please notice that when you prioritise it doesn't mean that what comes second, third, or fourth are bad, they're just not of first importance. They still need our attention but not to the detriment of what is of first importance.

Jesus return highlights what is of first importance; our relationship with him. Because when he returns that is what will be left, the other things

will fade away and not be of importance.

Would you consider it sensible for me to invest my life in something that is fleeting, like watch a grand final, at the expense of something of lasting worth, like getting my family out of a burning house? The house can be replaced and there will always be another season, but I can't replace the people I love.

I don't want to be left with ashes, but living breathing people to continue to share the joys and sorrows of life with. What is left reveals what is important. Being left with living breathing people is what is important, the rest was only there to serve the needs of those loved

people. In an instant like that it can be easy to prioritise; it's the people in our lives who take top priority.

That's true with Jesus, he prioritises putting his relationship with his Father first, and then the rest finds it's right place. He spends time regularly talking with his Father. So he knows what's on the Father's heart and mind, which means they are able to live in harmony with each other. Jesus seeks his Father's will and not his own. He doesn't live to use his Father simply to get what he wants. Jesus lives to love his Father, using all Jesus has, down to his last drop of blood, living out that loving relationship.

So when Jesus dies what does he have left? His life is left in his Father's hands. He trusts the Father with his life, enough to rest peacefully in his Father's hands, trusting

him to raise him to life. And the Father does. If Jesus had spent his life building up a huge financial base what would have happened to him? How much life would his financial base have been able to breathe into him? If Jesus had spent his life building a huge

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### When Jesus returns what will be left?

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popularity base what would have happened to him? How would the shouts of praise from his adoring fans have breathed life into him? Jesus invested himself in his relationship with his Father, and so now sits enthroned as King of kings, ready to come and judge the world at his Father's command. Notice Jesus is still giving priority to his relationship with the Father. He's not going to simply do his own thing when it feels right

to him, but he's listening to his Father, still in constant communication showing love for each other.

What we're left with reveals what is important.

I want to be left with Jesus, in his loving embrace, and I want all the people I love to be left in Jesus' loving embrace. As a matter of fact I'm in accord with

Jesus, I don't want anyone to be left outside his gracious embrace. I, like Jesus, find no joy in the thought of people being left in the ashes of a life that came to emptiness, to hopelessness, to a loveless existence. I don't find joy in any person being left in a hellish existence embraced in their hurts, fears and regrets.

Unfortunately at times I'm not like Jesus and I get my priorities a little

confused. People are in a burning life and I'm more interested in watching the last quarter of the grand final. What's more important; people or sport? We all know the answer; people. The 2010 grand final is now a diminishing memory. The people alive today have the wonderful opportunity of coming to know Jesus and to share life with him as his disciples. Being loved by Jesus, and loving the people they meet in the same way.

When Jesus returns his joy will be in embracing his loved brothers and sisters so that they can continue their life together.

Sadly those who don't want to share in this wonderful adventure of love with the Father will be given what they asked for; a life without security, without unconditional love, without hope, embraced

in fear, hurts and regrets. If I cut myself off from God in Jesus what am I left with; a world that is up the creek with no way of fixing it. I'm left with the fears and insecurities that surround me, without hope. What a hellish place. I certainly don't want to be left with

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### I want to be left in Jesus' hands.

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that.

What we're left with reveals what is important.

Thankfully when we give Jesus priority, and invest ourselves in this relationship we're left with the one who will never abandon us, the one whose love never quits. That's where I definitely want to be, with Jesus, my brother, enjoying life together in the Father's love.

So Jesus shows us how to prioritise. Give most importance to what is left, ensuring you'll be left with him.

Just this week I read Jesus saying; "My house will be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13) Which has nothing to do with a

building. The house Jesus is building is made of living stones. That's where he seeks to live, with us. So our lives with Jesus are

to be characterised by prayer. That is what has been emphasised to me this week as I've been doing my bible readings. Jesus wants our lives to be characterised by open and honest communication with him, based on trust in him, knowing he's given his life for us, that we might share life with him.

One thing I'll be left with is prayer; talking with Jesus, sharing