

enjoyed playing with his toys. But that's not how you grow a healthy relationship. You grow a healthy relationship by stopping, making time to listen, to share, to care, to do things together, to get to know each other. Investing yourself in each other.

Good News, Jesus' passion is getting to know you, and through his death and resurrection, even better news, you can get to know him. You can be loved by him and you can love him,

person to person. You can share life together, person to person.

Today Jesus is reminding us that the reason we are is to love and be loved, and you can only do that person to person. If God is only an idea I can't love him, and ideas don't love you. In Jesus God isn't an idea, he's a living, breathing person, whom we can get to know, and as we get to know him we discover his all embracing love of us. A love which now allows

us to love other people, because loved people can love people.

Let us pray.
Jesus help us each day to spend time in building our relationship with you. May I never treat you as a commodity to be traded, or a power to be used for what I want. May I always see you as a person. God in person, who loves me in person. Free me to daily love you with all my money, my time, my emotions, my intellect, my job, my play, my all. May I freely love you for who you are, and may I also freely love the people you bring across my path this week as an overflow of your love. Amen.

23 October 2011
LOVE, LOVE, LOVE.
Matthew 22:34-40



Today Jesus reminds me what is at the heart of life. That's the essence of the question he is asked; 'Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' (Matt:22:36) This question seeks to discover what lies at the heart of life. This is not meant to be some theoretical discussion about abstract ideologies. Rather what lies at the heart of life? What makes your life worth living? What makes your soul leap for joy? What gives you the passion to invest your total person in?

Jesus answer; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matt.22:37)

Jesus answer is a loving relationship. Notice Jesus didn't say love, but, love the Lord your

God. Jesus points us to a person. A person these people have a long history with, their LORD. The one who called them through Abraham, who set them free through Moses, who gave them the Promised Land. Love this person.

Today I'm reminded that love is not a commodity that exists outside of a relationship. I can love a person, or be loved by a person, but outside of a relationship love doesn't exist. Love is not a commodity we can store and trade. Love is not a commodity we can buy and sell. Outside of a personal relationship love doesn't exist.

Jesus was asked a theoretical question which he makes personal? Jesus doesn't

talk about love. Jesus doesn't give us a great definition of love. Jesus didn't come to earth going on a lecture tour tell us all about love. No, Jesus simply comes in person and loves us.

Jesus shares his time with the lonely and hurting. Jesus celebrates with those at a wedding. Jesus builds close friendships, crying at the death of Lazarus, and then rejoices with his friend at his resurrection. Jesus comes in person and invests his life in people. Jesus talks with the woman at the well. Jesus teaches people so that they might know how to love as he does. Jesus gives his life for people, because he loves people. That's his passion, that's what he still invests himself in.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

Edmund 0429041957



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

The Pharisees and Sadducees had answered by their actions that things were the most important. The Sadducees and Herodians were invested in bricks and mortar. Their life revolved around the temple. They feared Jesus because if he recklessly offended the Romans they might destroy their temple. They lived for bricks and mortar and sought to make people serve the building.

Do I ever live to accumulate, to consume things to please me? When I start living that way I become a slave to what I want. And what I want soon become what I need, and before long that's what shapes me. The consumer quickly becomes the consumed. I thank Jesus that he's come to free us to use his good gifts to us in loving people. There's nothing wrong with having resources, they enable

you to love. But they're never the reason we get up in the morning. They're never the thing that gives our life purpose and meaning. Thankfully Jesus does, and he loves us with his total person.

The Pharisees also took a good gift from God and lost the person.

In Jesus I've far exceeded being nice, I'm loved!!!

They took God's rules and used them to prove themselves, and to condemn others. They enslaved people in an endless pursuit of perfection.

God gave the Sabbath law so that we might have health; physical, emotional, psychological, health as we took a rest, knowing he had everything under control. The world won't fall apart if I have a holy day. In fact I can stop my

business and then focus on what's important. I can focus on Jesus, the person and all the beautiful people he's given me to love and who love me. Business never loves you, it's just a harsh task master. You've done enough.

Having a healthy routine is a blessing from God. It frees me to focus on what's important, the people Jesus brings into my life. I don't live when I'm a slave to rules

and regulations. Jesus once said; "The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27) The Commandments are God's gift to us so we can have a healthy routine in life. They're not the means by which I become a nice person. In Jesus I've far exceeded being nice, I'm loved!!!

The Pharisees only succeeded in leaving people feeling

condemned or superior. Jesus' goal is for us to feel loved. Loved by him, so that we can now love one another, so that our lives can overflow with his love of us. The Pharisees of Jesus day only demonstrated that you can't create love through imposing rules and regulations. You don't create love by constantly telling someone they don't measure up. You don't create love by constantly telling a person that everything they do is wonderful. Rules and regulations as good a gift from God as they are can never create love. Because love isn't a commodity you can produce.

Love is discovered only in relationship as people give of themselves for each other. Give, paying with their lives, that the other person is blessed. Love doesn't exist outside of relationships between people.

So today Jesus is directing me to a personal relationship with him. 'Love the LORD your God.' If I don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, my Lord, then any talk of love is nonsense. But we do have Jesus. He's come in person. So we now can have a person

Love is discovered only in relationship.

to person relationship with him.

That's also why it is important to remember that the Holy Spirit is the third PERSON of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit isn't some force or power that we plug into to get the strength to be good. My goal in life isn't to be proven good. I live to be loved, and thank God, Jesus has sent the person of the Holy Spirit to love me, in person.

One part of the bible which disturbs me is; "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 7:21) Are your alarm bells ringing? Jesus continues; "but only those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'" (Matt. 7:22) Doesn't this sound like those who are doing the Father's will, but they, according to Jesus aren't. What's missing? They prophesy, they drive out demons, they perform miracles, what have they missed?

"Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you.'" (Matt. 7:23) That's relationship language. Jesus came in person, but they didn't bother to get to know the person, they just