

At times I've been tempted to trust my feelings, my wants, my insecurities, my need for acceptance, and I've had fun. I think, cause to tell the truth I can't really remember that much. I certainly don't trust my memory! But if all I live for is experiences, isn't that the same as trusting my memory?

I don't want to come to the end of my life and just have a few hazy memories to justify my existence.

Jesus says; 'Trust me'.

As I trust Jesus I'm not left with hazy memories, but I've spent my life growing a

relationship. I have a person who will embrace me in his love, ushering me into life live in his kingdom. A celebration of life with him and all his extended family. A celebration that has begun as we seek to live out his love to one another today. All be it like stumbling infants.

I'm not coming to an end, I'm coming to Jesus' loving embrace. To his celebration of life.

Today Jesus is saying; 'Trust me'. Let's share this life together; let's make time to talk, to listen to each other, to share living life together as together we

take on the challenges of life. We do that through prayer, through listening to the bible, as we love one another, as we extend Jesus' kingdom, and we live together as Jesus' brothers and sisters.

Let's all take Jesus at his word and trust him with our life, with our living.

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

1 April 2012

JESUS IS KING—WHO DO YOU TRUST?

Mark 11:1-11

Today is an important celebration to remember. Palm Sunday is a reminder that Jesus is king. In our first reading for today we heard; "The Sovereign LORD has spoken to me, and I have listened. I do not rebel or turn away." (Isaiah 50:5 NLT) I do not rebel or turn away to do my own thing. That is the central message of today. Am I a rebel or not? Do I live to the beat of my own drum or Jesus'? That is the central message for today.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem in preparation for his coronation on Good Friday. To say the least it wasn't what you'd have expected for the coronation of a king. A crown of thorns. A wooden, executioner's

cross for his throne. Not the first images that come to my mind when I imagine a coronation.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem declaring his kingdom. He comes riding on a donkey; symbolic of his humility, that he has come to serve and not oppress. Symbolic that our king has come to set us free to be like him. His is not a kingdom where people climb the ladder of success, seeing how much wealth they can accumulate.

When his disciples debated about who was the greatest Jesus standard answer involved children, and slaves. So just before this event these are the words found on Jesus' lips; "Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who

are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42-45)

I'm sure this answer left his disciples perplexed. But Jesus comes not to oppress but to call us to follow him because we trust him with our lives. We trust Jesus as our king, and now he calls the shots. If Jesus says jump, we say; 'how high'. If Jesus says it's wrong, it's wrong. If Jesus says go for it,

then that's what we want to be doing. We trust Jesus, our king with our lives. I trust his power and authority way more than my own. I trust his love and faithfulness way more than my reason and desires.

So today we are reminded that our king has come to town, and he says; 'Trust me'. Trust me with your money, with your employment, with your children, with your hopes and dreams, with your sexuality, trust me with your self-worth. In short trust me with everything. Now that's a big call. I don't even trust myself implicitly!

Jesus trusts his Father implicitly. And so in as we continue the reading from Isaiah we find; "I give my back to those who beat me and my cheeks to those who pull out my beard. I do not hide from shame, for they mock me and spit in my face." (Isaiah

50:6) This is Isaiah prophesying close on a thousand years before Jesus death what was going to happen to him. That means it wasn't a surprise. He knows what is going to happen, and he trusts the Father implicitly with his life.

So Jesus' final act on **Jesus trusted the Father implicitly. Who do you trust?**

the cross is to give his life into the Father's hands, trusting that his Father won't abandon him but raise him to new life. Now that's a risk. And the Father does raise Jesus, true to his word. Because whenever the Heavenly Father makes a promise he keeps it.

So we're faced with the same dilemma; 'Who do we trust?'

Jesus riding into Jerusalem, on a donkey,

didn't look like a winner. Jesus hanging on the cross definitely doesn't fit the common idea of winning. But he did. Jesus did create a new kingdom where his character will rule. Where we have the capacity to love as he does, sacrificially.

Where we discover our self-worth not in what we do, or who praises us, or how much power and influence we have, but simply because we are loved and precious to God.

He's given his life for us.

Have you noticed that Jesus doesn't say; 'If you follow me everything will be roses and you'll have no problems.' Actually he says; "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matt.

16:24 NIV) Jesus calls us to self-denial and the way of the cross. This is not the way to amass great wealth and

luxury, in fact Jesus challenges us to give up our trust in wealth and luxury as the means to a rich and fulfilling life.

In our second reading for today from Philippians we heard these challenging words; "Jesus didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death – and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion." (Phil.

2:5-11 Msg.) Jesus chose a relationship and not a lifeless thing. Jesus trusted his Father, selflessly giving all he had simply because that's what the Father had asked of him. What a risk.

What if the Father was wrong? What if the Father forgot about him? What if the Father changed his mind? I'm sure those and a myriad of similar thoughts were thrown at Jesus as he hung on the cross.

And in the midst of all this hell Jesus places his life in the Father's hands. What a risk.

What are you risking your life in? Science. Logic. Praise. Wealth. Having fun. What is enticing you to risk your life in it with the promise of a rich and full life?

Jesus says: 'Trust me'.

Jesus says; 'Trust me'. Our faith comes back to a person. A person who asks us to trust them, enough to follow and do what they say. Enough to place our lives, our self-worth, our future hopes and dreams into their hands. Jesus is calling to you; 'Trust me'.

Have you noticed that life is a risk? Everyone risks trusting someone or something.

Often when watching TV I'm encouraged to risk trusting myself. Just last night I saw and ad, with every person wearing a crown being told to take control of their money. And a very wonderful bank was going to help out, at a small cost I'm sure. Every person was being asked to trust that they were kings, that they were in control, and the choices they made could win them life to the full.

And then I was reminded of Isaiah; 'I do not rebel or turn away.'

It's a beautiful illusion to think that I'm in control. Sickness and death always shatters this illusion. To simply trust myself, my wants and desires, I'm trusting someone who is very fragile and vulnerable.

Jesus says; 'Trust me'.