

we can live true to who we are. And as we live true to who we are in Jesus, we're not shaped by what's happening, but Jesus begins to shape what's happening.

In Jesus we have the power to move from death to life, in all of the situations we find ourselves in. One of my favourite passages of the bible says; "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you... and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him

at his right hand in the heavenly realms." (Eph. 1:19,20)

In Jesus we have the power to change the world, and yes even to change ourselves.

To change where we've become opinionated. To change the hurts we've suffered and inflicted. Yes in Jesus we have the power to change, and move from death to life.

Jesus has called us to be his change agents. As we bring Jesus to the people we know he is able to change them so that they also become the Father's loved children whom he delights in. So they too begin to discover the joy of living from the love

they have, discovering the life Jesus has to share with them. What a fantastic change when people come to faith, moving out of the realm of death into Jesus' kingdom of life.

I pray that Jesus continues to change each of us so that we reflect his image more clearly each day. I pray that Jesus continues to graciously use us to extend his kingdom of life, as we are his touch in our world today. Let's seek to introduce Jesus to as many people as possible so that his touch might change them from death to life, today. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

8 April 2012

YOU CAN CHANGE - WE CAN CHANGE

Easter Sunday



In Pete's story one of the questions being faced was; can people change? What do you think? Can people who are strongly opinionated change, or is it a waste of time? Can people who have been badly hurt in life change, or will they always be hurt? Is it a pipe dream believing people can change? What do you think?

Jesus must believe it is possible. He's given his life in the hope that people will change. He's working hard today in the belief that people can change. Jesus certainly believes it is possible for people to change, he's made it possible; and what

more dramatic change than going from death to life.

All of creation is going from life to death. I think in beginnings and ends. A child is born, only to end in death. World history is full of empires that have been birthed and reached great heights, but all have died. We live in a world that moves irresistibly from life to death.

But Jesus has changed everything; he's moved from death to life. Jesus' kingdom isn't coming to an end, it's growing, it's alive and nobody and nothing can kill it. Jesus' kingdom

brings the power of life.

I love the image in the bible of Jesus touching lepers so that they are healed. What Jesus touches is healed, given life, life to the full. That's what Jesus has come to offer; "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10) Jesus' touch always brings life.

Without Jesus the opposite is true. If I were to touch a leper in Jesus day I would have been considered unclean. The disease would have changed me! Have you noticed that in this world,

when you mix the healthy with the sick, the healthy become sick, the sick don't become healthy?

Wouldn't it be great if it was the other way around. We could go to the doctor's surgery, full of healthy doctors, have a cuppa coffee and a chat with them, and leave healthy.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could put the sick with the healthy and they become healthy?

I no longer have to live believing things can't change, believing we just go from life to death and there's nothing we can do about it.

Thank God, in Jesus I can now believe everything can change, living with Jesus in his kingdom which goes from death to life. There

certainly is something I, we can do to change our world. Not a cosmetic change, not a desperate grasp at survival, but a change that ushers in life. Life lived beyond my wildest dreams, life that not even global warming can stop.

We're not shaped by what happens...

That not even greed, envy, hatred, betrayal, fear, insecurity and immorality can stop. Jesus is unstoppable. His touch brings life.

In the world around us we have the ability to take life, but we don't have the ability to create life. If we did, there would never be another funeral, but if you look in the paper tomorrow you'll find

a list of people who have died. We can write all the laws we like, we can have all the rules and regulations and the best policing in the world, but some of those people will have died due to road accidents this Easter long weekend. And

there is nothing we can do or say that will change that fact.

With Jesus things are different. He is the author of life. He has given his life so that we can change, that we can move from death to life. Jesus will have the last word; not death.

Each and every person ever to have walked this earth will stand before Jesus to hear his word of life. For those how believe him, the life he breathed into them when they came to

faith will flourish. For those who don't believe Jesus but trust in themselves, sadly they won't hear, they'll stay stubbornly dead to God and his amazing love for them. They'll rather trust themselves and rot.

But that's not what Jesus wants; he's breathed his life into us so that we can go and breathe his life

into this world. So people can change and discover new life in him. Discover the joy of being a loved child of the Father. Discover the celebration of life that Jesus invites us to feast on with him.

Jesus has come with the power to change us, to change people. No longer living from fear, trying to beat death by doing as much as they can.

Instead living life from the amazing loving relationship we now share with Jesus and his Father. We're not trying to beat death, we're enjoying loving the Father, taking each opportunity he brings our way to breathe his life into it.

In Jesus we move from death to life!

Can hurting marriages change? Of course. Jesus is able to touch us and heal the hurts of the past. Jesus is able to touch us and heal our attitudes, or behaviour and grow us to become more and more like him.

Jesus' touch is able to change the death giving selfishness in us, which lives out of fear, to a life giving selflessness, which

lives to give, which lives to breathe the Father's love into every situation.

Can hurting people change? Of course. Jesus is able to touch us and heal our hurts, and fill us with his grace and mercy, so we live. Simply

responding to hurts done to you really isn't living. It's more like existing. It's more like being imprisoned for life.

Jesus comes in person to touch us so that we live out the love we have, so that we take on his character and are empowered to be kind, gentle, faithful, patient, loving in the face of the most aggressive, jealous, fear-filled acts.

Because we have changed. In Jesus we have a new nature, his spirit has been breathed into us, so that in every situation