

What Good News, we can be the change Jesus wants to see. We are Jesus' agents of change, who make an eternal difference. We are able to live out what Jesus has made possible through his life, death and resurrection. All he will bring to fulfilment when he returns. Jesus believe a new heaven and a new earth are possible; he's in the process right now, and he believes it is possible for us to be part of that change.

Let's all daily seek to be living out the changes Jesus has made possible, letting him shape what we believe is possible.

Let us pray. Jesus thank you for changing me. Thank you for forgiving me and changing me into one of the Father's loved children in whom he delights. Jesus thank you for making me into one of your agents of change. Open my heart and mind to see all that is possible through you that my life becomes the change you believe is possible. Amen.

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## **Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

15 April 2012

## **WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS POSSIBLE?**

**John 20:19-31**



Have you ever wondered why people labelled Thomas as 'Doubting Thomas'? I'd have called him, 'Just like me Thomas'. Here is Thomas still very much in grief being told his friend, whom he saw so brutally killed just a few days ago, is alive. He saw Jesus die with his very own eyes. This reinforces for me the reality of Jesus' death. Thomas was in no doubt that Jesus had died. It wasn't a hoax, so he definitely wasn't expecting to see him alive a few days later.

Thomas' response is the only logical one. The only realistic one. He saw his friend killed and buried. I'm sure all of us would have thought the same thing. So that makes this encounter with Thomas important. For it is also

an encounter with our realistic expectations. Here Jesus is speaking as much to us as he is to Thomas. Thomas does the seeing and touching for us. Yes, Jesus is real! This is no figment of his imagination, it defies his imagination. This shouldn't be possible, but here Jesus is, real flesh and blood, alive!

Now Thomas has to change. What he believed was possible and real has now changed forever. What he expected the new kingdom of Israel to be like has changed forever. His mind, what he considered realistic was just proven to be way too narrow, even wrong. Jesus has blown his mind. Jesus idea of what is possible far exceeds Thomas' and ours as well.

What Jesus believes is possible is that we can be saved from the curse of sin. That we can live with God in a loving relationship, based on his life and death. Jesus believes we can change and become like him, children who reflect their Heavenly Father's very nature and loving character. Jesus believes that we can all live in peace. Not an artificial peace, but one where we are prepared to sacrifice our wants and desires for each other. A peace that is built on a love that flows from within, that flows from within the very heart of God.

What do you believe is possible?

Jesus believes it is possible to change the word, from the inside out, beginning with

you. Do you believe it is possible?

Thomas knew he didn't have the ability to change the reality he was in. Jesus was dead and there was nothing Thomas could do to change that fact. But Jesus did. The Father raised his loved Son to life. A change Thomas couldn't do, but the Father did. The power of God in Jesus can change everything. "With human beings this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)

Do you believe this? Do you believe with Jesus all things are possible; even people changing, even myself changing? What do you believe is possible?

Jesus believes that in his power you can be a change agent. You can help Jesus change the world. Jesus believes this so much that he doesn't have a plan B.

He trusts his A plan, as we heard spelt out for us today; "Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven.'" (John 20:2-23)

**Jesus believes that...**

And if we don't do it, who will? People don't have the power to change, to forgive themselves. So if we don't speak they won't change. Our world won't change, it will stay trapped in sin, trapped believing in itself and what it can achieve, totally limited, missing out on the wonderful reality of life, love and peace that Jesus has the power to create. A reality far

beyond my wildest dreams.

Jesus has breathed into us so that can go and breathe his life into this world of death. Jesus believes we can change people's lives as we go in his power and authority, speaking the words he has given us. Loving from the heart as we are loved by him. Forgiving people, so that they are free to forgive and live from the wonderful peace that Jesus' presence brings.

Over the next weeks as we fast and pray, we're also joining with Jesus in believing that the world can change, and the change starts with us. As we trust Jesus with our lives and with his kingdom. Trusting that spending time with Jesus in prayer isn't a waste of time, but a vital investment of our time. Other things can wait, even eating can wait. We believe it is far less important than

Jesus, listening to him, sharing with him from our heart and soul, allowing him to continue to change us, using us as his agents of change.

That's why we're taking on the challenge to read and meditate through the entire bible in a year, and together take on the E100 challenge. Because we believe there is nothing more important than staying in tune with Jesus, being open to him, allowing him to change us through the Spirit as we feast on his word. Here is where the change starts; with Jesus. Spending time with Jesus. Listening to Jesus. Letting his reality invade our thinking, so that we grow in believing all that he knows is possible. So that we begin and grow in living out what Jesus believes is possible.

Thomas certainly changed. He stopped

saying that Jesus was dead and made that wonderful confession; "My Lord and my God!" Thomas changed and believed.

What do you believe is possible? Can Jesus' people of faith change the world, person by person?

**Can Jesus' people of faith change the world, person by person?**

That's Jesus' plan; person by person. That's how he came, in person, to love people. That's how he died, in person, because you're personal to him. And that's how he rose, in person, because he's after a person to person relationship with you, flowing from his love for you. You can't be loved by a thing, but you can be loved by another person. You can be loved by Jesus and be changed to live out the love you have.

Jesus doesn't want us to be shaped by the world, by the hurt, by the greed, by the insecurity, by our fears, by our limited thinking stopping his possibilities.

Jesus' dream is that we shape the world we live in, by using each situation as an opportunity to live out his love in person, to live out his possibilities in person. What a powerful change, to live love in the face of anger. To speak hope in the face of darkness. To be selfless in the face of poverty. To be the change Jesus has made possible.

I like that old saying; 'Be the change you want to see'.

What do you believe is possible? How are you a living example of the change Jesus wants to see, the change he has empowered you to be?