

25 December 2012

WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU? MEAN TO JESUS?



Over the season of Advent we've been asking the question; 'What does Christmas mean to you?' What does Christmas mean to me? When I think about Christmas one of the first thoughts I get is, ham. Growing up the only time we got ham, or ham carved of the leg was Christmas. That's a mouth watering memory.

We also had the tradition of listening to a record my Parents brought many years ago of a Russian singing group they had been to see. It didn't feel like Christmas if I didn't hear those voices and my Dad saying; 'He was just a

short guy and the other was tall and thin.'

Of course there was the traditional Christmas Eve service followed by the opening of the presents after.

As I was reflecting the thought came to me; What does Christmas mean to Jesus? After all its his birth that we celebrate today.

When I look around I see frantic activity; presents being brought, food prepared, arrangements made for families to get together, and mega service preparations.

Now I'm not saying there is anything wrong with any of these activities, but would they be the first thing to spring to Jesus' mind?

I think we'd all say; NO!

So what does Christmas mean to Jesus?

He wasn't excited about having a holiday and going off to exotic Israel.

The first impression I have is that Jesus was being faithful to his Father. Jesus steps out in trust, risking his life because he loves and trusts his Father.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

How many things potentially could have gone wrong? Two teenage parents, in a foreign town. Where were all the doctors and nurses? Where was the sterile environment? How many things could have gone wrong?

the security of a loving relationship. We're existing outside the Father's love. Not because he doesn't what to love us, but because we won't trust him with our lives.

lives, with our sexuality, with our money, with our sense of worth. If it doesn't make sense to me, forget it. If I don't feel good, no way. If I'm not learning something new, what's the point.

Jesus takes a huge step of faith risking his life because the Father asked him. And Jesus trusts the Father implicitly.

Humanity's not interested in a life of risk, trusting the Father, doing what he says for no other reason than he said it.

The next thought to come to my mind is that both the Father and the Son have a burning passion to save people, to save you and me.

I'll trust if it makes sense to me. If I can reason it out and it makes sense to me, then I'll think about it. That's if I'm not busy with my own important agenda. The Father can wait!

Jesus needed no other reason that the Father asked him to go. So Christmas for Jesus is a great leap of faith.

Humanity, that us, are in dire straits. We're lost; Lost in a world of god-pretenders. lost our identity, lost our purpose, lost our sense of worth, lost

We simply don't trust the Father, let alone trust him enough to risk him with our

I mean people mightn't like him. They might even reject him. Who knows the risks, they might even crucify him. Don't go Jesus, it's too dangerous.

Christmas is Jesus risking his life simply because the Father asked him to go. Because the Father sent him.

Jesus really can't see any reason why not to trust the Father with his life. There is no reason not to risk it all. In fact from Jesus' perspective, not to go is the real risk. Then he would have lost everything, and been left in a maze of self-doubt, if

taking him at his word. Which reminds of me of another birth, where everything is risked trusting the Father, taking him at his word. The day of your baptism, where you were re-born the Father's child, in Jesus. There the Father declared to everyone; "You are my child, whom I love, with you I delight to share my life.

What logical sense was there; he was going to be killed, rejected, hated, all for risking his life at the Father's request.

Christmas is Jesus risking his life because the Father asked him.

-onlys, regrets, disappointments, a wasted life.

Come Christmas Day and Jesus leapt forth, everything to gain and everything to lose. Jesus steps out in faith, trusting his Father with his life.

What does Christmas mean to Jesus? That we too might have the possibility, the hope of living life with the Father as Jesus does; joyfully risking everything, our lives, our sexuality, our money, our security, our identity, simply trusting the Father

So now, because of Jesus risking his life, being born our brother, we now too can life joyfully trusting the Father, doing what he says for no other reason than he's the one asking. And I trust him with my life.

Actually that's the way he lived before Christmas, after Christmas and even right now.