

life. When you look at your neighbour what do you see?

When shopping what do you see? Through Jesus' eyes we would see people Jesus longs to reach with his grace and mercy, showering them clean in his forgiving grace. Jesus sees potential brothers and sisters who need to hear the Good News.

When you look at life, what do you see?

Through the news I see a messed up world or greed and violence. Of which I'm a part.

Through Jesus I see precious people who he has given his life to save, personally.

What do you see?

Let us pray.

Jesus we thank and praise you for coming and saving us. We thank and praise you that we can live in a loving relationship with you and each other

because you have won forgiveness for us.

Daily help us to see ourselves through your eyes. Help us to see your community of faith, the church through your eyes. Help us to see the world through your eyes. Help us to see people who we can love as we are loved by you, especially when we see your brothers and sisters. Help us to die for each other as an expression of your love. Amen.



19 February 2012

WE NEED HELP TO SEE

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Today as we remember Jesus transfiguration I'm reminded that we need help to see things clearly. Often we don't see what is there, but what we want to be there. We don't see what has happened because we are blinded by what we believe has happened.

When I write a sermon, I read it through many times till I can't see any mistakes. But if I give it to someone else to read they always find mistakes. Why? Because I've been reading what I want to be there, not actually what is there. My sight was coloured by what had gone before. I know the words I want to write and that's what I read each time, not what's there.

That reminds me of the parable of the talents.

What does the person who comes under judgment say; "Master I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground." (Matt. 25:24,25)

The servant perceived his master to be a harsh person and that shaped his actions. Was the master a harsh person? The other two obviously didn't think so because they risked far more; and were rewarded. This servant only sees a harsh person and lived by fear. He didn't see clearly because of his fear.

Where in your life does fear colour your vision?

That reminds me of Adam and Eve. Before they fall I'm sure the sound of God walking in the garden would have produced joy in their hearts. After the fall what was their response? "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God." (Gen. 3:8) They hid, what has changed? The LORD God hasn't changed. But the way Adam and Eve see him certainly has. They now perceive him through the eyes of fear; so they hide. They are now incapable of seeing God for who he really is, all they can see is someone to be feared, to hid from, making up excuses.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



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

On our own we can't see God for who he really is, we need help.

Jesus came and stood among us and we killed him. He didn't fit our image of God. He wasn't grand. He wasn't all conquering. He didn't strike fear into the hearts of our enemies and give us the wealth and comfort we wanted. So humanity nailed him to a cross believing they'd gotten rid of this pretender, believing they were justified in their actions. We crucified God believing we were doing God a favour!

The reality was very different. Humanity had killed God because sin has left us blind. And we can't get our sight back by our own efforts. In fact that's part of our blindness. We believe we just have to work harder, work smarter and we can fix anything. But the reality is that this is

just another way we hid for God and from each other.

Even on the mount of transfiguration Peter is blind. He sees Jesus with his eyes but his brain doesn't comprehend. Even here, left to ourselves we're blind.

Humanity had killed God because sin has left us blind.

What did Peter want to do? "Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials – one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah." (Mark 9:5) Peter doesn't see Jesus, but a moment to hold onto. A moment to glorify and set in stone. Peter wanted to build to try and hold onto the moment as if this could preserve it.

Peter doesn't see clearly because of his fear. He's

overwhelmed, and is unable to make sense of what he sees. He tried to interpret this event through his own hopes and dreams, but he fails to see the reality that is staring him in the face.

Isn't that true of life? Left to our selves, looking at life through our own hopes and dream, through what we can achieve, we always fail to see the reality that is staring us in the face.

I'm surrounded by God's creation, but daily I fail to see his face in the wonder and beauty he has created all around. Left to myself I'm too self-absorbed to even see the reality that is daily staring me in the face.

When the cloud, on the mount of transfiguration goes, what is left? "The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes,

seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus." (Mark 9:8)

To see clearly here is where it starts. I need to be looking at Jesus, that through him I see myself and the rest of the world. Paul reminded his readers; "All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get." (2 Cor. 4:6)

Thank God we can see his reality in the person of Jesus. Thank God we can see ourselves clearly in the person of Jesus. Thank God that all the disciples were left with was Jesus.

The problem I find with myself is often that's not enough. I want to build. I want to find security in a structure. I want to find my hopes and dreams in a plan. I'm often like Peter who seeks to hold onto glory by building. Building a magnificent, spectacular building. I'm lead to believe that

Christ gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

this glorifies God. What did Jesus build? What is he still seeking to build?

Jesus temple is made of living stones that don't seek to capture a moment, with a monument. That would be a monumental blunder. No Jesus seeks to capture people, that he might live life with them. Jesus enters a dynamic relationship which is a living

expression of God's loving character. That's what Jesus is building; a community of brothers and sisters who love each other as he does. With a passion. That they are prepared to go to the extreme of dying for each other. Even spending their money on each other, expecting nothing in return. When you look at the church community what do you see? Through Jesus' eyes we would see people he loves and has sacrificed his life for. When you look at the church what do you see? When you look at your neighbour what do you see? Through Jesus' eyes we would see a person that Jesus has given his life for, and Jesus' hopes and dreams is that we together would share life with him. That together we'd share in Jesus' celebration of