

1 July 2012

THE LAW AND THE LAND

E100



I think God might have known that our slave mentality would have us working, being busy, because that proves you. Proves that you're not a waste, because that's how you get what you need in life; work hard. To which Jesus says; 'Rubbish; don't get so busy you miss out on life.' The Sabbath was given so we'd stop and enjoy each other, enjoy being loved by the Father, enjoy his wonderful creation with him and each other. Don't be a slave to your insecurities and fears, stop, listen, enjoy life together in the Father's love.

It's interesting to note that on the Sabbath there was no prescribed act of worship. Their whole life was an act of worship because everything they did, right down to how they treated the mould in their

homes was given to them by the LORD. They didn't set aside an hour for worship then get back to life, life was worship. Their life was an act of trust in the LORD. Their whole community was to be a reflection of the LORD, as they lived together trusting him.

How do we as a community live together as an expression of Jesus love? An important part of living free in Jesus is being part of his community, letting the love he has for you find expression in the way you treat the other person. Have you noticed that the Ten Commandments were never given to prove you, but to guide you in how to love as you are loved. To help you live out who you are in Jesus. So you could live true to yourself; a loved child of the Father in whom he delights.

The moment I use the Ten Commandments to prove myself I'm living a slave mentality. The moment I take on a dare to prove myself I'm existing as a slave.

Thank God in Jesus we can live free. Free to be all that Jesus has believed possible. Free to be loved and loving for no other reason than that's who we are. And so with God we can say; 'I am who I am' finding our identity, our security and our direction in Jesus.

Don't be a slave, live free in Jesus.

This week for the E100 readings we focused on the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai receiving the Law from the LORD and their crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land.

As we read last week there could have been up to two million people leave Egypt. Now they faced the challenge of how they would live together as a united people. Till now much of their identity had been determined by the Egyptians. They were slaves. They made bricks and did what Pharaoh told them. Their lifestyle, their culture was strongly influenced by their slavery.

How would they live now? The biggest step wasn't being set free; it was knowing how to live free.

The story of Israel is a prophetic story of our lives. We are born slaves to sin. Sin being that I want to be god, I want to be in control and do what I believe is best for me. We are born slaves to our own desires and needs. We are born without an intimate relationship with God. We are born doubting that God really does know what is best, and we doubt his love as we feel the pains of life. We are born slaves to sin, it shapes the world we're born into.

But in Jesus, Good News, we're not slaves to sin. We're free from that slavery. And now like the Israelites we face the biggest challenge, the challenge of living that freedom. The challenge of letting Jesus and the freedom he has given us shape us as individuals and as a community.

In the Lord's Prayer we ask the Father to bring his kingdom; 'Your Kingdom Come'.

The first thought that comes to my mind when I pray this is the end of the world and being ushered into heaven. What's the first thought that comes to your mind when you pray this familiar prayer? (Share with the person next)

Today I'm reminded that each time I pray this I'm asking the Father to shape me now to live as a citizen of heaven. Sure it is something we are looking forward to but it is also the reality we are now called to live in.

I'm not a citizen of sin, death or the devil. I'm a citizen of heaven with Jesus as my king, as our king. Jesus, today, is the king of the Father's kingdom. That isn't

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

simply a future hope but a present reality which will be lived out with all its implications when Jesus returns.

And when Jesus returns there won't be any room for those who have been setting up their own kingdom. All rebels will end in prison. That's hell. They won't rule. They won't be doing their own thing. The king Jesus will issue his decree and all rebels will be cut down.

As part of the Lord's Prayer; 'Your Kingdom Come' I'm definitely asking Jesus to cut down all rebel thoughts and actions in my life, today. I know I'm tempted to think I know what is best, and the world would most definitely be a better place if people only listened to me! The rebel in me daily needs to be cut down.

But what replaces the rebel? What replaces the slave? How do we live free in Jesus? This is the challenge we face daily. Yes we are free in Jesus.

Yes we are forgiven in Jesus. Yes we are the Father's children, whom he loves and delights in, in Jesus. But how do we live this freedom?

I find it interesting that the Children of Israel often look to go back to Egypt when they are faced with difficult times. They are tempted to go back to the

How do you live FREE?

familiar, to go back to slavery, because at least they got fed. But we don't live our freedom by going back into slavery. Who does that sound completely ridiculous to? It's ridiculous to think we can learn to live free by repeating what we did as slaves.

But as a slave what do I know? If I've been born into generation after generation of slaves what do I know? I know how to be a slave, but I've had no experience

in living free. I could even feel anxious about living free, it all would feel so different, even alien to my previous experiences. I'd need someone free to teach me, to show me, to walk with me so that I could truly live free. Thank God we've got Jesus, the free son of the Father, who came not only to free us but to show us, to grow us, to mature us to live free, just like him.

So the Children of Israel arrive at Mount Sinai and the LORD sets about teaching them how to live free. How to live as his people, who reflect him, and not as slaves to Egypt.

Have you noticed that the Ten Commandments and the following chapters weren't given so that these people could live a God pleasing life so he'd accept them. That is a slave mentality. When I'm living to gain acceptance I'm living as a slave.

I can add that to my thoughts when I pray 'Your Kingdom Come'. Jesus set me free from looking for acceptance, help me to live fully in the acceptance I have in you. Jesus, help me to live free! What are you tempted to look to to gain acceptance and feel good about yourself? Jesus wants you today to step out of that slavery and to live free in him, in the acceptance and worth he has gifted you with.

It's extremely sad that when Jesus comes he doesn't find a free community but a community of people enslaved. The Pharisees clash with Jesus because he is living free, but they are enslaved to their need to be accepted by God. They are enslaved by their insecurities, using the commandments to prove themselves. They are slaves to their insecurities and can't let go of their good deeds. What would they be then? Naked without their good deeds!

It's not that easy to live free when all you know is slavery.

Sometimes I feel I know not what to do, but am left feeling unsure about what to do. That's when fear gets me looking to the familiar, to all the supposed successful slave models that surround me. But living

Walk and Talk with Jesus

from fear never produces a life of freedom.

In our relationship with Jesus we don't live from fear, but we are forgiven, we are loved, we receive from God what we need not what we deserve. In Jesus we find the ultimate loving relationship, where Jesus has lived out the ultimate act of love, he's died for you. Nothing is going to change his mind now. In Jesus there is nothing to fear, just a wonderful loving relationship to live and enjoy.

So we live free when we live up close and personal with Jesus, trusting him with our identify, with our security, with our purpose in life. We live free as we walk with Jesus following him, trusting his lead.

That's the only reason we are seeking to read the bible in a year; because then I'm making time to listen and share with Jesus. That's the only reason you've been invited to participate with the E100 series; because then we're making time to listen and share with Jesus, building our relationship with him.

This is obviously the only reason the LORD gave the commandment to rest on the Sabbath. It wasn't to prove yourself. That as we've seen is slave mentality. The only reason the Sabbath was included was to ensure we spent time with God and with the people we love, and who need love.