

imagine it a wall too high to scale.” Prov. 18:11

When I invest in the lie that life is about what I possess and the more I possess the happier I’ll be, I become a consumer of people not a lover of people. Seeing I live in a consumer society this is an ever present temptation for me. But life isn’t about how much I have, rather personal relationships lived from the heart, beginning with God. God in Jesus didn’t accumulate any wealth, but he loved personally from the heart, spending all he had on us. I daily need to be reminded that the wonderful material gifts I have are given so that I might give meaningful expression to love.

How do you love someone who is hungry? If you have food you feed them. Who has food? You’re empowered to love. In Jesus thankfully we don’t live for our possessions but we now use the gifts we have from God to love people in a personal and practical way. Love is certainly practical and not theoretical. There are many other thoughts we could look at from this section. Proverbs is one of my favourite books to read with so many jewels that even I can remember. This week why not grab a pen and re-read Proverbs and make a few posters to put around your office, home, car letting God speak his gracious word to love.

of life to you, so your living is full of his living presence. Let us pray. Jesus thank you that we can live life personally with you, heart to heart. Daily let this relationship shape all I say and do so that I seek to live personally with others building heart to heart relationships. Please remove my fears; those barriers that stop me from being open and honest, with your loving presence. Jesus flood my life daily with your loving, personal presence in the person of the Holy Spirit.

29 July 2012

## PROVERBS 16-18

### E100



This week for the E100 readings we focused on the Psalms and Proverbs. This gets us to a more personal level. We read the history of David and Bathsheba and now we get to feel the emotion as David pours out his heart to God. Which reminds me that life is an emotional, and very personal experience. Life lived to the full comes from the heart, but one of the scariest actions in life is to reveal your heart to another person. Life is very personal, for I’m a person with a heart and you’re a person with a heart. So we can protect each other’s heart or we can crush each other’s heart. The way I live is very much a matter of the heart. The way I live, what I do, and how I treat other people and myself matters,

because it is a matter of the heart.

So the book of Proverbs isn’t just a bunch of wise sayings, it’s how to live from the heart. How to live in a way that doesn’t crush yourself or another person, but helps us grow in a lifestyle that lets the heart beat of God flow through us.

To approach any part of the bible as just a text book to teach me lessons on life is to take the heart out of it. The bible is God pouring his heart ours so that we can live heart to heart with him and each other.

If in the bible Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, isn’t speaking to my heart, there’s a problem. Life with Jesus is personal, not a theory I practice. It’s a

relationship I live with the person of the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs helps me to live from the heart, person to person.

One of the barriers to this is my pride. In Friday’s readings; Proverbs 16 -18 pride is mentioned several times.

“The LORD detests all the proud of heart...” Prov. 16:5 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” Prov. 16:18 “Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.” Prov. 18:2

The big problem with pride is that it keeps me from being honest with myself, it keeps me from living heart to heart with other people,

## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus’ disciples multiplying disciples

and God is replaced by what I can or cannot do. Pride robes me of living life personally because it destroys me, and in the process destroys you.

The antidote to pride isn't to belittle yourself. In fact that is pride living itself out giving expression through trying to be low enough so people will listen to me, accept me, like me.

The antidote to pride is to let God love you in person. Jesus has opened the way for God to come to you in person, the person of the Holy Spirit, wrapping you personally in his life, knowing you are loved. The antidote to pride is the Heavenly Father's love for us. So now we can live life like Jesus, from the Father's love.

At the heart of pride is doubt. So I seek to make something of myself. In the process I become full of myself.

That's why pride prevents me from understanding. I'm too busy protecting myself, building myself. I'm too busy and who do I end up neglecting? The people around me. I don't listen to them. I'm too busy with building myself.

Thank God in Jesus I'm

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### The antidote to pride is...

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loved. So out of the security of this love I can be open to the people around me. In fact out of this security the people around me become my priority. My priority to love; by listening, by the way I speak.

In the chapters we read this Friday we find many thoughts on how we speak. "The perverse stir up dissension and gossips separate close friends." Prov. 16:28 "Whoever

would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends." Prov. 17:9 "To answer before listening – that is folly and shame." Prov. 18:13

How I speak is important because I can speak heart to heart

building up a person, or I cannot listen and impose myself on the other. Not listening is depersonalising another. Listening

is a great act of love, for in that act I'm showing personal love, give you priority over me. Listening is a great art of love, and it is also for me one of the hardest to live out.

I know I'm tempted to simply give people a piece of my mind, for their own good of course, but that never builds up. I don't even feel good after it, cause I don't feel listened too. Isn't that interesting, when I don't listen, I

don't feel listened to. When I don't live investing myself personally, from the heart, I've missed the mark well and truly.

In Proverbs we read; "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Prov. 16:24 I'm always thankful that in Jesus God is always speaking a gracious word to me; renewing my soul, giving health and strength to my bones so I can stand tall and face life heart to heart, person to person, living out the loving relationship I have with him. 'Gracious words' fill the heart with life and motivate people to healthy living.

Opposite to 'Gracious words' are 'Quarrelsome words'. In this section of Proverbs there are many references to 'Quarrelling'. "Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so

drop the matter before a dispute breaks out." Prov. 17:14 "Whoever loves a quarrel loves sin; whoever builds a high gate invites destruction." Prov. 17:19 "An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels." Prov. 18:1

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### The opposite to 'Gracious words' is...

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Again being 'Quarrelsome' comes from a sense of insecurity. From a poor self-esteem. I'm trying to find myself by defeating others, by being right – all the time. Being quarrelsome leads me to be competitive against you instead of giving myself for you.

In Jesus we have the wonderful security of living from a self-esteem which nobody can take from us. In

Jesus we are loved to the depths of God's heart. And nobody or nothing can ever change that. So we don't have to quarrel, we can even freely give way rather than engage in quarrels. My goal isn't to beat you but to love you from the heart, in spite of my fears. In Jesus I am loved, so

now I can live out this love being true to my identity in Jesus. What wonderful freedom and life we have in Jesus.

One last group of readings that caught my attention this Friday focused on not letting the things of life crowd out the people in my life. "Better a little with righteousness (treating people right) than much gain with injustice (walking over people to get what I want)" Prov. 16:8 "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting with strife." Prov. 17:1 "The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they