

love with, to walk faithfully through life with.

That's what he finds in Noah; "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and walked faithfully with God." (Gen. 6:9) Do you notice that faith is a relationship term? It describes a relationship of trust. Noah listens and follows the LORD. He lives out a trusting relationship. Trusting the LORD with his life to the point of building an ark.

I'm sure he was ridiculed, but he built the ark with the full expectation that the LORD would fill it

with animals. What a risk. And when he went into the ark for seven days there was no rain. Probably just a lot of knockers laughing at him from the outside. What a donkey. But it rained!

This is the scene for the rest of the bible; love lost. How can the LORD breathe life into his dead creation so they will out of love trust him with their lives, enjoying walking faithfully with him?

How are we walking faithfully with God, in Jesus today? How are we sharing this great love story so that more and more people might come to know the real

God, falling in love with him through Jesus, walking faithfully with him? Did you notice that's what a disciple is, someone who walks faithfully with their Master, sharing life intimately with them, trusting them with their lives.

Of course that's what Jesus is after. Not club members, but disciples; people who risk everything trusting him with their lives. And there is no one better in my mind to trust and walk through life with than Jesus.

3 June 2012

IN THE BEGINNING

E100—Genesis 3:9



This week we've read the first five of the one hundred essential texts. And these are truly essential for they set the scene for all that follows.

First comes creation. I tire of people arguing between creation and evolution, because they're missing the whole point. The whole point of the creation story is that God made it all so it belongs to him. He has a right to what he has made. It's his.

We're not having a scientific discussion. Actually evolution is less about science and more about avoidance, cause if God didn't create us he has no right to judge us, let alone tell us what to do. Then I'm my own person, God can't tell me what to do, let alone

have the audacity to judge me.

But God does have the right. He made it all, it belongs to him.

This avoidance is a reflection of Genesis 3 where we read of humanities fall. Where humanity set about seeking to live life their own way, because they didn't feel God could be trusted.

It is important to note that in this account of history we don't read the word God, but the LORD God. This infers a personal relationship. This isn't some random come to give us a hard time. This is the one who created us out of love, in his image, so that we could relate to him lovingly and to each other in the same love. This is the one who calls us to trust

him, to live out of his love for us; he gave Adam a home, a meaningful job, food galore, and society, someone to love and be loved by.

Then some random who Eve obviously doesn't know comes and bad mouths this God, their friend. This random causes doubt; 'God can't be trusted, he's keeping the best to himself'. 'You'll have to take control. This LORD guy can't be trusted, after all he's keeping the best from you'. And he's being mean, threatening you with death. Why does Eve listen to this random bloke and not the LORD who has given her everything? And why does Adam stand there like a stunned mullet, not saying a word?

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

So what is the scene that we have set in the first three chapters?

Have you noticed it is not Good verses Bad. If that were the case then the solution would be to do what? Get rid of the bad and leave the good. Get rid of bad actions and leave the good ones. Simple, but that's not what we find played out between Adam and Eve and the LORD God.

What I see is a broken relationship. I see unfaithfulness, trust broken. And for what? Personal gain! Greed! Rebellion! Adam and Eve get sucked-in to taking control of life for themselves. The LORD God is ignored, rejected, no longer to be trusted with their lives.

The scene that is played out is a love story.

Isn't it interesting how many movies are love stories, or adventures

where someone needs to be rescued? Isn't it interesting how many songs are about love?

We are in a world searching for love. But we're so often searching for love on our own terms, and the LORD God isn't even thought of, let alone consulted. In our society he's painted as

The scene that is played out is a love story.

someone who simply creates guilt and is heavy handed, even threatening, trusting him doesn't even come into the question.

The scene that is played out is the scene in which I live. I long to be loved and to love. I long to be accepted and wanted. I long to have a purpose for my life. These are deep longings within my soul, and collectively in the human soul.

Here the LORD God reveals why? These longings are the result of a broken relationship. The result of love lost, of a broken heart.

The LORD God told Adam that when he ate of the fruit he would what? He would die.

I'm sure we all realise that to die is more than to simply stop breathing. Death means losing your very reason for being, losing yourself.

It's not coming to nothing that is to be feared, but being left lost. Every person will live forever; that is they'll be breathing.

The big question is will they be loved or abandoned? That's the real death, being unloved. That's what people fear, being unloved, unwanted, a waste of space and time. That's the pain that tears our heart and soul apart.

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit they died.

What was the first thing they did? They hide from each other, symbolised by the sewing of fig leaves to cover themselves. No open and honest trusting relationship, but barriers, fears, lost trust. That's the world I live in, people fearful of each other, having to be very careful about who you can trust. Every day we hear on the news of

trusts being broken; internet stalkers, home invasions, theft, rape, murder, profits over people. I'm sure you can think of many, many more ways in which trust is exploited leaving us sceptical of other people, having to be weary. The scene God has painted is the world I live in.

And then the LORD God comes in the cool of the day. Adam and Eve's very reason for being, to be loved by

the LORD God and to love him in return.

Their mate comes in the cool of the day and they do what? They hide. They hide out of fear. And humanity has been trying to hide ever since.

We hide in our achievements. Surely they make us

The scene the LORD God has painted is one of love lost.

worthwhile. We hide in having fun. Surely travelling the world and enjoying life to the full makes me worthwhile. We hide in religion, making rules then keeping them telling God that he now has to like us. After all we've kept the rules, unlike other lazy sods. Surely God will have to like me, declare my life of value. We keep hiding to the point we let ourselves believe if we ignore God and just go off and do our own thing

then everything will be all right.

What sort of world are we living in? How would you describe it? All's good! I don't think so.

The scene the LORD God has painted is one of love lost. One of lost identity and meaning.

Lost direction and purpose. A lost sense of acceptance and worth. A lost world desperately seeking life, but falling short, missing the mark.

In the historical account of Noah we read this week; "The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled." (Gen. 6:6) This is relationship terminology. The LORD'S heart is deeply troubled. All those hopes and dreams he had in mind when he created Adam.

Someone to share his life with, to share his