

And for this to happen we need to be like Pete; being specific, praying for those people, following Jesus' lead, because his undoubted passion is to embrace then in his grace and mercy.

Who is Jesus placing on your heart, so that you might be his presence to them? Who is Jesus placing on our heart, collectively, that we might be his presence to them, in the hope that they will come to know Jesus and enter his kingdom, having a healthy, vibrant, loving relationship with him and all his brothers and sisters?

Let us pray.  
Jesus thank you that we were on your list. Who do you want me to go to this week to be your personal, physical presence? (Let's take a few moments in silence and listen.) Jesus who do you want us to go to as your community of faith that this community comes to know you as we go out as your body? (Let's take a few moments in silence and listen.) Jesus give us the plan, the courage and love to act, to your glory, honour and praise.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

11 March 2012

## SACRIFICE FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE (Introduce others to Jesus—Let's Do It)



Did anyone notice what Pete decided to do when he realised that he needed to change? Did he try and change the whole world? No. He became specific, and focused on a few people. Today, in particular he focuses on one person, his daughter Jade.

His focus isn't on the BBQ, what meat he'll have, who'll bring what salad, and whether to have wine or beer. Where is Pete's focus? The people. The BBQ is just a tool to help him build, to re-build himself, to re-build his relationships.

The first week of lent I spoke about prayer; and the challenge of praying for the whole world, as a way to encourage myself to pray more and more. To pray for you, my

family, those I love. And at that time I suggested a plan, not because I love plans but because Jesus has revealed to me that he uses a plan to love us. He doesn't leave somebody so important to him to mere chance.

Last week I added to the plan, not just sharing with Jesus what's on my heart and soul, seeking to listen to him, but to meditate through the entire bible, so that I can clearly hear him.

Is the focus of these two challenges to spend more time in prayer and bible reading?

No, the focus of these two challenges is Jesus. He's the one I'm talking to, listening to, walking through life with. Prayer and meditating on the bible

are two significant communication tools which enable us to live out the precious relationship we have with Jesus. These are two gifts that as we use them we grow a healthy, vibrant, loving relationship with Jesus.

Today's challenge is to extend that relationship to other people. And to do that we need to be like Pete, focusing our attention on specific people. Not because there is something in it for us, but because that's simply how love works. That's how Jesus has sought to love us; in person, at his expense.

Jesus' love is always free to us; but it costs him his life, for our good, that we might benefit. That's the nature of Jesus' love,

he chooses to sacrifice himself for you.

Today's challenge is who will you, who will we, sacrifice ourselves for that they might come to know Jesus and be saved, entering a healthy, loving, eternal relationship with the Father through the Son, lived out with the Spirit.

Who will we use our resources to reach with the Good News of Jesus and his kingdom? Our resources are not our focus. They like prayer and bible reading are resources we have so that people might come to know Jesus and share his life with him in a healthy, vibrant, loving relationship.

Sadly the people of the Old Testament lost their focus and began to believe the resources they had been given were to make themselves acceptable to God. In short they ended up focused on

themselves. So it became their nation and their temple that Jesus became a threat to.

Where was their focus? The Pharisees took the 'Law' and turned it into the means that would make them acceptable to God. Why did God give the Children of Israel the Ten

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**Mission is what we do, it's who we are.**

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Commandments? Was it so they could be moral? Was it so they had a measure to prove if they were good enough? Why did God give the Ten Commandments?

God wanted his people to be a light to the nations around them. They, just like us, were meant to be a missionary people. God in Abraham had pledged himself to these people, and now he sets about shaping

the way they live as a society to be a reflection of who he is. But somehow they turn things around and now they use the Ten Commandments as a means to exclude people, as a means to segregate themselves, as a means to prove themselves. Isn't God's pledge to this people through Abraham good enough?

So when Jesus comes into the Temple in Jerusalem what does he find? A bunch of evil people? Or a community that has become inwardly focused, obsessed with proving their worth? Jesus finds a community that has lost their reason for being, and have developed tradition upon tradition to the point where when God comes into his temple he's not even recognised.

The animals and coin changers would have thought they were

doing God's will. After all how could you offer a coin with Caesar's image and inscription on it in worship to the one true God? After all Caesar thought he ruled the world. It only made sense to change your money to a more appropriate currency. And the animal traders where only doing the pilgrims a service. It was a lot easier to carry money and buy your offering at the Temple. Slowly they turned in on themselves and lost the fact that God wanted them to be a light to the nations.

Today our next challenge is to join Jesus in seeking the lost. One of the most significant verses in the bible is this; "Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'" (John 20:21)

So Pete made a list and then went about contacting those people with the express

purpose of rebuilding his relationship with them. Likewise Jesus came with a specific plan in mind that he might seek the lost, that they could be forgiven and brought into a healthy, loving, vibrant relationship with the Father.

So mission isn't

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**My focus is Jesus...**

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something the church does, it's who we are. We are to be a light to the people around us. As a community we are to reflect the love of Jesus in the way we love each other to the community around us. Jesus' passion is to save people from life outside of a healthy, loving, vibrant relationship with the Father, so that they can be living it.

Our challenge this year is to talk with Jesus about who he wants us

to introduce him to. Who does he want us to invite to become citizens of heaven. We are called to do this both as individuals and as a community. We are called by Jesus to sacrifice ourselves; investing our time, investing our money and possessions, that other people might come to know Jesus personally.

We don't exist to worship. We worship so that our relationship with Jesus is healthy and strong, then we can go out and share this person, Jesus, person to person. Worship isn't my focus, just like prayer and meditating on the bible isn't my focus. They are valuable tools to keep my relationship with Jesus healthy and strong. My focus is Jesus, letting his personality and character flood my living that others might come to know him.