

him known personally, person to person. For Jesus this is of first priority, after all it's what he lived and breathed. He was sent by his Father, so people could come into a living, loving vibrant relationship with him. That's life.

What's at the forefront of your mind? What shapes the decisions and judgements you make? How do you determine what is essential and can't wait, what needs to be done but can wait, what really doesn't matter?

Jesus has come so that we can see how he answered these questions and then follow him, trusting

him with our life decisions and judgments. For to choose outside of Jesus results in a wasted life, that's real death, and I don't want that for anyone, especially those who I love and hold a special place in my heart.

Let us pray.
Jesus daily open my ears to hear you. Open my eyes to see you, so that I can do what I hear and see you doing.
Thank you for the wonderful relationship of love you have

created for me to share with you. By the Spirit guide all my decisions and judgements so that this relationship shapes everything I do. Jesus keep the Father's will at the forefront of my mind so my life is lived as your disciple, knowing I'm the Father's child, whom he loves and delights in. Amen.

25 November 2012

WHO'S GOT ETERNAL LIFE?

John 5:24



As I read the Gospel reading for today I was drawn to this verse; Jesus said; "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

What do you think of when you hear the word; 'judged'? Today we are reminded that Jesus has the authority to judge. To judge me and to judge you, in fact he's got the authority to judge everyone. There are no exceptions.

This text began with the phrase; 'I tell you the truth'. In other words this is important, take special notice. Judgement is not a trivial matter. This is of extreme importance.

But do I treat it that way?
I must admit that at times I don't have this thought at the forefront of my mind. When making decisions often the first thought that comes to my mind revolves around what I might like or not like. Do you think that will be the standard Jesus will judge you by?

Jesus will judge all people. This isn't something trivial, in fact our life is in the balance. Today we are reminded of the life or death nature of Jesus' judgement. This is not a trivial matter to be left to a time we're not busy. Yet often I know that's how I live. I get consumed being busy, but so much of what I'm busy about, does it really matter? How do we judge what is

important and can't wait and what can wait, and what doesn't really matter?

The stakes are high. It's not just life or death, but eternal life or death. This is no trivial matter, your eternity is in the balance. The eternity of those you love is in the balance. For Jesus will come and judge all people, and his decisions will be binding no matter what people think or feel. And no-one can run and hide.

How does Jesus judge? "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life." (John 5:24) Do you notice we have a relationship to live, that's how Jesus judges. He is speaking; 'whoever hears my word'. This is no

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

impersonal list of rules and regulations, but Jesus is speaking personally to you. Am I listening?

Do I believe him? Do I take Jesus at his word? The answer is found in the way I live because that shows what I believe. Jesus won't ask you to recite the

Apostle's Creed to see what you believe, but he'll sit down with you and look at the daily decisions you made. Was he involved?

Did what he think or feel shape your daily judgements? How did the relationship he created thought his death and resurrection get lived out?

The devil can recite the Apostle's Creed as James reminds us: "You believe that there is one God. Good!

Even the demons believe that – and shudder." (James 2:19) The demons can't live their life in a loving, committed relationship

with the Father through his Son Jesus, in the Holy Spirit.

Notice we don't have an exam to pass but a relationship to live; today!

What wonderful news, what 'Good News', today we are able to share God's life with

We don't have an exam to pass but a relationship to life; today!

him. Today we are able to walk and talk together, enjoying each other's company in the cool of the evening. In Jesus we're not like Adam and Eve who run and hide when they hear God coming, but in Jesus we rejoice to share life with our friend.

What great news we have in Jesus. Prayer isn't asking God for this or that as if he was like Santa, just a means to get what we want

and then be forgotten. In prayer Jesus has invited you to share life with him at every moment and in every situation. So Paul reminds us of that wonderful truth that we can pray without ceasing. Because prayer isn't asking God for what we want, but simply sharing our

hopes and dreams with our Heavenly Father. We're sharing ourselves, inviting our Heavenly Father into every area of life as we talk with him about everything. I'm not trying to get anything, in Jesus I have everything. I have a living, vibrant, loving relationship with the Heavenly Father.

Jesus will pass judgment how; "whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me." (John 5:24) Believe him who sent me. Notice Jesus isn't living simply to do what he wants, simply to achieve his own

desires. No Jesus life is shaped by his relationship with his Father. What Jesus believes is seen in the decision, the judgements he makes.

So Jesus is born trusting his Father. Jesus shares with his disciples so they get to know the real person because he trusts his Father's will. Jesus goes to the cross and dies because he trusts his Father's love.

Jesus chooses not to raise himself but places his life into his Father's hands, knowing his life couldn't be in better hands. Jesus' life is lived trusting his Father with every judgement he makes. Jesus' life is lived with the Father at the forefront of every decision he makes.

What a great way to live. Good News, in Jesus that is now our reality. Good News, in Jesus we have the Holy Spirit, so we can live our lives with the

Father at the forefront of every decision we make. Good News, we have a loving, vibrant relationship to live with the Father, through the Son in the Spirit. We have a relationship to be lived today, not a score card to prove who we are.

In Jesus I know who I

What Jesus believes is seen in the decisions he makes.

am; I'm the Father's child whom he loves and delights to share his life with. In Jesus I am forgiven, so I now have the power to forgive. In Jesus I am loved, so I now have the power to love. I have nothing to prove, I have a wonderful vibrant, loving relationship to live with my Heavenly Father, in Jesus' kingdom, with the Holy Spirit.

Through my relationship with Jesus

I have "crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24) For I can see what Jesus does and follow him, just as he sees what his Father is doing and follows him.

That's why we are called to go and make disciples; people who see Jesus and follow what he does. If I can't see or hear Jesus how can I follow him and do what he does?

So Jesus has sent us to be his voice and his presence in the places we live, work and play so that other people might hear and see and also share life with the Father through the Son in the Spirit.

By the way did you know that the Latin for send is *missio* which is where the word mission comes from? I was reminded of that this week. So the Church doesn't have a mission, but Jesus has sent his people to go and make