

from the lies and
 deceptions of the
 devil. We invite you
 to open our eyes to
 see clearly who you
 have created us to be.
 That we see clearly
 through your eyes
 what it is to be an
 authentic human
 being; made in your
 image. Jesus as we
 gaze into your face
 liberate us for life
 with you that together
 we celebrate the
 humanity that we are.
 Amen

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

26 March 2017

THE MOST HUMAN FACE OF ALL

Beautiful Outlaw



If you were to define the word 'Human' in a dictionary what would you write? What is it to be 'Human'? Is there anything special about being 'Human'?

I just assume I know what a human being is, because I am one. But when reflecting on these questions I began to struggle with just how I would describe what is 'Human'.

Today I'm reminded that Jesus is the answer. In fact I'm reminded that Jesus is the one I need to look to if I want to see what it is to be human. He is the only one.

Sadly we've lost the image of what it is to be human. That is

part of the tragedy of what we call 'The Fall'. In Genesis we are told; 'God created human beings in his own image.' (Gen. 1:27) But in chapter three we read of how Adam and Eve lose trust in their Father, follow the lies of the serpent and fall into a world of confusion, a world of hiding, a world of fear. They die to what it is to be human.

Humanity is lost and confused about what it means to be human. Some people try and discover who they are through what they can do and achieve. Other people try and discover who they are through their relationships. Still other people try and discover who they are through their status and other people's

praise. Humanity is lost and confused about what it means to be human; or at least that's what God has told us in his word.

It is part of what the word 'sin' encompasses. 'Sin' means we are all born into a state of confusion as to what it means to be human. We've lost that original image and not matter how hard we try, on our own we can never recapture a glimpse of that image, let alone live it out.

'Sin' is far more insidious that just doing a few wrong acts. Then all you'd have to do is stop doing the wrong acts and do the right acts. Easy. Until you realise left to

ourselves, humanity can't even define what are the good acts and what are the bad acts. We argue about it and then label each other bad because we don't agree with what the other person is saying. What a confusing mess we are in, and we're in so deep there is no way for us to be object.

Actually the latest ploy is to give up trying to find object truth; declaring there is no such thing as truth, just what makes you feel happy. But feeling lost in a vast sea of opinions doesn't make anyone happy; just frustrated, insecure, maybe even resentful.

When I look into the face of Jesus; I see true humanity. When I look into the face of Jesus; I get to see my true identity, what it means that I'm a

human – made in the image of God – and Jesus is the exact image of God.

This week why not read one of the Gospels asking Jesus to send the Spirit that he reveal to you what it means to be human. That he reveals to you how to live

Who wants to be authentically Human?

human, and be all that Jesus has given his life for you to be.

This week invite Jesus to send the Spirit and reveal what it means to be truly human, so that you might be living free of the devil's lies and deceptions. So that the fog is lifted, that the curtain is torn, and you get to see yourself reflected in Jesus' face. The most human face of all. Actually, the only

truly authentic, 100% human you'll ever know this side of the grave.

Do you want to be an authentic human being? Look into the eyes of Jesus, know him, walk with him as his disciple, let him touch your soul and recreate you in his image.

What do we discover about Jesus humanity from today's story of the blind man?

I'm struck by the inhumanity of man to man, the inhumanity of people to other people. We have a man born blind and the question is asked whether it was his sin or his parent's sin that caused his blindness. Surely they each have enough to deal with without being blamed for something they had no choice over. The religious leaders aren't interested in

the man born blind. They're just totally blinded by their need to keep the rules. They have long since lost the reality that the rules were made to keep people healthy and safe, people are not made to be slaves to the rules.

That reminds me of Jesus saying; 'the Sabbath was made for people, people weren't made for the Sabbath.' The

Sabbath laws were good, even essential for people to stay healthy. We all need that break, that time to rest body, mind and soul. It's part of being human. We are designed to have rest, to stop and rest, God's, our Dad, has got it all under control.

Jesus sees this man, as a man. Jesus heals this man personally as you makes the mud and puts it on his

eyes. He then empowers the man as he gives him the task of going to the pool of Siloam (which means sent, interesting). The man can now see but the story is far from finished. The story finishes with Jesus having lead this man to amazing faith, a

Ask God to reveal to you what it means to be Human.

faith that exposes the blindness of the Pharisees, but with an open invitation for them.

Here we see Jesus, truly human, just as he dreams possible for us. Yes even the healing, for as a human Jesus heals because of his relationship with his Father. He draws on his Father's power, and it is through his Father's eyes that he sees the world as it

really is. Which we, in Jesus, are also able to do as we begin learning to live truly human. Dependent on God, not ourselves. Living with God as God, not ourselves as our own little centre of the universe.

Do you want to be an authentic human being? Stop looking around you, you'll never see someone who isn't broken, lost, hurting in some way; chasing an illusion.

Do you want to be an authentic human being? Look into the eyes of Jesus, know him, walk with him as his disciple, let him touch your soul and recreate you in his image.

Let us pray. Jesus we praise you for being born and living the human being Father had always intended. We invite to rescue us