

Sunday November 14, 2021

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer (Greg W)

Good morning and welcome to the service today. Hebrews Chapter 10 exhorts us to; “not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but to encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” I am personally encouraged to know that you are either watching our video service, or reading through the paper service that has been sent out, and in doing so you are joining with the body of believers who worship at Charlestown Presbyterian as we worship God this morning.

The prominent evangelical scholar and author Don Carson said; “Worship is the proper response of all moral, sentient beings to God, ascribing all honour and worth to their Creator-God precisely because he is worthy, delightfully so.” Today we gather to worship God through prayer, and through the reading of His word in the bible, and through singing songs of joyful praise.

Today during the sermon, we will consider what the second half of Mark Chapter 10 has to say about learning to trust God like a child trusts his parents. We’ll hear that following Jesus may seem childish, but it is the only way to receive God’s gift of eternal life.

Well friends, before we sing and read the bible, let’s pray ... Lord, you are a great God and a great king above all other gods. In your hands are the depths of the earth. The heights of the mountains are in your hands too. The seas are Yours because you made them, as is the dry land. We praise you God for You created all things that exist, and they continue to have their being only because you sustain them. As we consider this month how we should care for your creation, we ask that you will give us wisdom and discernment to know how to do this in a way that honours you. Teach us your ways, LORD, that we may rely on your faithfulness. Give us an undivided heart, that we may fear your name. We will praise you, Lord our God, with all our heart. We will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward us. You have delivered us from the depths, from the realm of the dead. We thank you Abba, Father, that you sent Your only Son to die on a cross of wood, in order that our sinfulness could be paid for; the righteous for the unrighteous; once and for all. Free from the law, O happy condition, Jesus has bled, and there is remission; Cursed by the law and bruised by the fall, Grace has redeemed us once for all.

In Romans 8 we read, the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Thank you, Father that you have sent your Holy Spirit to dwell in all believers, to be our helper, our guide and encourager in times of need. Thank you also that through the work of the Spirit in our lives we are convicted of our sin and made aware of our need to repent and seek your forgiveness. Thank you that your Spirit teaches us to truly know and follow you. We pray all these things in the name of your Son, our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song – Behold our God

1. Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus.

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Chorus

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

3. Who has felt the nails upon his hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

Chorus

Bridge. You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth) x8

Chorus

Bible Reading – Mark 10:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Announcements for 14th November

Baptism of Clement Brown. Today we are doing something really exciting! Jon and Ang will have their youngest son Clement baptised. Please pray for Clement that he might always walk in the Lords ways and that Jon and Ang will faithfully keep the promises that they are making today

Opening Up. It is great we are able to have more people in church and able to sing. This is because the NSW Government has acknowledged that going to Church is a low risk activity. That might be true for COVID but we all know that listening to God's word always involves a risk that God will lead us where we don't want to go!

Focus for the month – Creation Care. Last week we thought about the Biblical basis for creation care, this week we are thinking about how that relates to our Church? How can we as a Church be good stewards of the slice of the earth God has made us responsible for?

ZOOM Prayer time. Every Monday night the Church meets via ZOOM to pray. It is so important that pray, both individually and collectively for each other, our church and our nation at this time.

Building Working Group. Please pray as we employ an architect to put the money that we are willing to spend with the ideas for buildings that we want to achieve together into one package. When the architect has done their work and the we have costed the building plans we will be wanting feedback and authorisation from the congregation before we go any further.

Gather Round, a welcome back carols event on Saturday 4th December, more details to come. Please keep the late afternoon and night free in your diaries (or phones)

Gingerbread House. Don't forget that this outreach is coming up late November, early December

Kids Church Prize giving is down for Sunday 12th December

Kids Spot: We are starting a new series on the early chapters of Luke as we lead up to Christmas. This week we are looking at Luke 1:1-4 and learning that the book of Luke was carefully investigated by Dr Luke and written so that we can be certain that Jesus lived, died, and rose again to save us. Question of the week: What can you say to people who say that Jesus is all made up and he's not real?

Operation Christmas Child. There were 100 boxes donated this year by members of the church. This was a great outcome, especially seeing we were in lockdown at the time. This year our boxes went to Madagascar and Cambodia.

Pledges. Many thanks to all those who have pledged money for our Ministry Facilities Fund. When you come to pay your pledges please can you mark the transfer or the envelope 'Building'

Working Bee – Saturday 27th November. We will be catching up on a number of jobs around the church that we haven't been able to do earlier on in the year. If you can help, our workday will start by 8am and should end by lunchtime. Plenty of small jobs, so just come when you can!

Song – A Christian’s Daily Prayer

1. As morning dawns and day awakes,
To You I bring my need
O gracious God, my source of strength,
In You I live and breathe
Each hour is Yours by wisdom planned,
Each deed empowered by sovereign hands
Renew my spirit, help me stand;
Be glorified today
2. As day unfolds, I seek Your will
In all of life’s demands
And though the tempter tries me still,
I cling to Your commands
Let every effort of my life
Display the matchless worth of Christ
Make me a living sacrifice;
Be glorified today
3. As sun gives way to darkest night
Your Spirit still is here
And though my strength fades like the light
New mercies will appear
I rest in You; abide with me
Until our trials and suffering
Give way to final victory
Be glorified, today; be glorified, I pray

Pastoral Prayer Points

Psalms 124: “Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth” (v. 8). This psalm praises God for the miraculous rescue which took place at the Red Sea. Israel was way outnumbered. They were stuck between a rock and a hard place; between the Red Sea and Pharaoh’s army. And if it wasn’t for the Lord, they would have been swallowed up by either side. Every Christian can boast of God’s miraculous rescue in Christ. All of us were trapped by nature, dead in sin, slaves to the devil and taken captive to do his will. But by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we are snatched up by God’s grace. Jesus Christ our Lord is both our Creator and our Redeemer; he alone made us and he alone rescues us. So let’s make sure our boast in Christ alone!

Pray for Afghanistan: Continue to pray for hope, stability and safety for the people of Afghanistan. Pray that those who are able to leave will be safely evacuated - especially Christians who are in critical danger. For those who must remain, pray that many will turn to Christ at this time. Pray that the Lord will change the hearts of the Taliban leaders.

Pray for our National Cabinet: pray for humility, wisdom and unity as the leaders in the National Cabinet work together to make decisions that effect all Australians. Pray that God will work in the hearts of each State Premier and lead them to do His will.

Pray for unemployed: Pray for work for those who have lost their jobs or businesses. Pray for God’s provision for families in need.

Bible Reading – Mark 10:17-31 (NIV)

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.” ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. ²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it

is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” ²⁸ Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” ²⁹ “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Sermon – Childlike or Childish? (Stephen T)

“Don’t be childish”. “Stop acting like a little kid.” “When are you going to learn to grow up?”

We live in a society that loves to rush through the early years. Kids are in a hurry to stay up later, go to parties, sleepovers, drive a car, drink at the pub. Girls and guys are developing earlier due to their change in diet. And we as adults want to prove to everyone that we are in control, that we are coping, that we are self-sufficient. We want to be seen to be adults, mature, wise and always in control.

And yet in our passage today Jesus says something very different. He says those who want to enter the Kingdom of God must become like a little child. He tells his disciples that the Kingdom of God belongs to these little children. He even calls his disciples children when he says “Children how hard it is to enter the kingdom of heaven”. And he ends our passage by saying if we give up anything, including our children, we will receive from God’s good hands a hundred times more. So, one day you and I might find ourselves with hundreds of kids!

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In the words of Warren Wiersbe, “We tell children to behave like adults but Jesus tells the adults to model themselves after children.” So today we are going to have to embrace our inner child. We are going to learn to trust God like a child trusts his parents. For following Jesus may seem childish but it is the only way to receive God’s gift of eternal life. So be

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1. Like a little child (verses 13-16)

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me & do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ He took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them & blessed them”

Jesus was a busy man. An important man. And he had places to go and people to meet and so when some parents started bringing their children for Jesus to bless them, the disciples shooed them away. Someone has to protect him from these constant demands. So, one way to do that is to get the kids out of the road so as to leave Jesus more time with the adults.

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But Jesus is indignant. That’s a strong word, isn’t it? He rebukes them. God’s kingdom is for the children as much as the adults. Isn’t that what that old children’s chorus says, “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.” But there is more to it than that. Jesus says we actually can learn from our children, important life lessons.

I was reading an email during the week that said, “My children have taught me many things”: My children taught me that if you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 6 stone boy wearing underwear and a Superman cape. My children taught me that Lego’s will pass through the stomach of a 4-year old but Duplo will

not. That play dough and microwave should not be used in the same sentence. That garbage bags do not make good parachutes. And my children taught me that you probably do not want to know what that odour is."

But more importantly kids can teach us about the life of faith. A little child is helpless and totally dependent upon the adults around them. They have nothing to offer, so they come as they are, empty handed. And they receive what is coming to them as a gift and they don't try and pay the gift giver back.

And Jesus is reminding us today that unless we receive the kingdom of God like a child, we will not receive it. We do not come to God telling him what we have done for him or what we are willing to do for him. For there is nothing that we can do for God that he needs us to do. Our salvation is completely a gift of grace. It is given to us no strings attached. Like a child we need to depend upon God completely. We need to trust him and look to him 24/7.

Now I have to be careful here for I am not saying that all children will be in heaven. That up until a certain age where they can make their own decisions that God will save every little child. That's not what this passage is saying. It is calling on all adults to have a childlike faith, to trust and depend completely on their heavenly father. And that's really hard for us all.

As adults we struggle at times to trust people. They have let us down in the past. Often the only person we can truly trust is ourselves. But if we don't have complete & utter trust in God we can never get into his kingdom. If we think that it is about trusting ourselves, we will find the doors to heaven are completely shut. Our salvation then is not something we can earn or deserve or make, it is something that is given to us. We must trust God totally, that is the only way to be saved.

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Now why don't we think about that for a moment? Do we trust God, totally trust him? If we read something in his word, would we do it? If he asks us to do stuff we don't want to do, would we know that he has our best interests at heart? If following him is going to cost us, are we willing to pay that price? Well, Jesus was willing to do that for you!

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In the second century St Irenaeus said of Jesus *"he came to save all by means of Himself... he therefore passed through every age becoming an infant for infants... a child for children... a youth for youths."* Jesus became like a child and trusted completely in his father God. Laying before us an example of childlike faith. Being childlike in this way is being more like Jesus.

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I love the quote attributed to DL Moody. He once returned from an evangelistic campaign and reported back that there were two and a half conversions. "Two adults and a child, I suppose?" asked the host. "No, two children and an adult. The children gave their whole lives. The adult had only half of his left to give!"

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2. Like a little child and then secondly **since a boy (verses 17-22)**

Because as Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to Jesus and fell on his knees before him. A man, someone who is the complete opposite to a helpless baby, a man, who is rich. Matthew's gospel also says that he was young, full of vitality. And Luke tells us that he was a ruler. Here was someone very capable, very powerful, very important.

And yet he shows Jesus great respect, he falls at his feet and says to Jesus, *"Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* What a great question! He isn't interested in making more money or obtaining more power, he wants as a matter of urgency to know about his eternal destiny. What an impressive character. Young, rich, powerful but being willing to humble himself before Jesus.

But before we get to what Jesus does say to this man, what would you say to him? What must I do to inherit eternal life? Would you say keep on doing what you are doing! Come to Church each Sunday. Pray a prayer of commitment. Repent and believe in Jesus? We want people like this guy in Church, don't we? So would we make it easy for him?

Because notice that Jesus doesn't make it easy for him. He pushes back on his question. ¹⁸ *"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone."* Everyone lacks goodness before a perfect God. Do think you can do anything to inherit eternal life, it is not about you but about God. So, what has God already told his people?

¹⁹ *"You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother.'"* How do you measure up to God's standards? Because God's standards are like a mirror, they will show us what we are really like. How far we have fallen short.

But unfortunately, when this RYR looks in the mirror, he doesn't see what God sees or what others see, all he can see is someone that has always done the right thing. And has kept these commandments ever since he was a boy. And that's the problem with religion, any religion. Who gets to judge when you have done enough? Do I work out whether I have passed the test or does someone else?

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²¹ *"Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

Jesus puts his finger on the problem. Yes, he is a good person, a religious person, a committed person but he lacks one thing. One thing. trust. Childlike faith. At the moment he is trusting in himself, his religion, his actions, his goodness. What he needs to do is totally trust in Jesus. So, if he gets rid of his riches and follows Jesus completely then he will get what he really wants – eternal life, riches in heaven, salvation from God.

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That is what he says to this young man whom he loves. Because his wealth was getting in the way. His gold was his God. His money was robbing him of eternal riches. And if God is God, then in the words of the first commandment, we should put no other gods before him. Anything that is in God's place needs to be gotten rid of. Anything.

Here is a man loved by Jesus. A good man. A righteous man. But a lost man unless he sells everything and follows Jesus. Wow, that's a tough call. Imagine Jesus saying that to you today? You are not going to go to heaven unless you go and sell all that you have and come follow me. That would separate the men from the boys, wouldn't it? The sheep from the goats. I can't imagine too many of us divesting ourselves of our homes and cars, clothes and toys & facing the prospect of being homeless because we will go wherever he calls us to go!

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So if you and I want to have eternal life, and we love money more than anything else, then we might need to go sell everything we have and give that money to the poor and then take up the cross and follow Jesus. Or maybe there is something else that for you and I is more important than Jesus that Jesus will ask us to give up. Maybe we need to walk away from our career and then follow Jesus. Or give up our mobile phone? Or our love of fine fashion? Or no longer live with my girlfriend. Or stop watching porn? Or stop being lazy and self-indulgent and instead follow Jesus.

Eternal life must be valued above everything else. And eternal life is found in Jesus, and only in Jesus. And so, anything that is getting in the way of your relationship with Jesus must go. Now. Right away. And for this man it was his wealth.

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Jesus is telling him and telling us that we can't be believers without being disciples. We can't be a Christian without being willing to follow Christ. Wherever he calls us to go. Whatever he tells us to do. The Christian philosopher Soren Kierkegaard once said, "to become an admirer of Jesus is much easier than being a follower of Jesus" Because following Jesus will turn your life upside down. And so, if our lives are not upside down, you and I have to ask ourselves what's wrong? What have we put before following Jesus?

Simon, James and John left their fishing boats and families to follow Jesus. Levi left his tax collecting business to follow Jesus. Later on, in this chapter blind Bartimaeus will leave his cloak, maybe his only possession to follow Jesus. I remember as a young Christian that one of the older guys in the fellowship group, sold his house in Epping and left his church of 25 years to help plant a Church in the Western Suburbs. A few years later one of my contemporaries left Australia and became a missionary to the Arabic nomads of Chad. We may not be asked to do what these people have done or what the RYR was asked to do but none of us can have anything, anything before our love of Jesus.

Because once again that is what Jesus has done for us. Jesus left heaven for us and our salvation. Jesus had the riches of the universe at his disposal and yet gave it all away to be born into a poor carpenter's family so that he might follow God's will all the way to the cross. So what God is asking us to do is nothing compared to what Jesus has already done for us. But in the words of Mother Theresa "you will never know Jesus is all that you need, until you realise that Jesus is all that you have."

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But this was a bridge too far for the RYR. ²² *"At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth."* How heart breaking. Missing out on the riches of eternity for the cheap trinkets of this life for a few more years.

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3. Children, how hard (verses 23-27)

²³ *Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"*

²⁴ *The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!" How hard it is! "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*

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That's impossible. The camel was one of the biggest of all animals in the ancient world and the eye of a needle is one of the smallest gaps. Getting a camel through an eye of a needle is like landing a Boeing 777 to land on the head of a pin. It's impossible. ²⁶ *"The disciples were even more amazed & said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"* ²⁷ *Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

Only God can get the camel through the eye of the needle. Only God can land that 777 on the head of a pin. Yes, what Jesus is saying is next to impossible, to give up the most important thing in your life and follow him. But God will enable you to do it. He helped the disciples to give up their boats to follow Jesus. And he will help you to do it as well.

Don't think you can sell all your belongings and give the money to the poor? Of course, you can't without God doing a work in you. Don't think you can put your Saviour in front of your family. Your dead right. God has to change your priorities, God's grace must change your heart. The example of Jesus must completely transform all your thinking & feeling & doing.

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And so when we come to Christ, there is always something you must replace in order to make him Lord of your life. There is always something you have to give up so that he can become number 1. Wealth then is a barrier to entering the kingdom of God. Our homes and family can stop us as well. Because it makes us trust in them. Trust in the created things rather than the creator of all things.

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And God wants us to be like children. Not trusting in ourselves. Not trusting in the things around us. But helpless, and hopeless without him. He wants us to have childlike faith. And because he loves us, he knows that nothing else can handle the stress and strain of being the number 1 in our lives, other than God Himself.

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Did you know that American missionaries went to Japan after WWII and they found that many were coming forward to be saved. But over time it seemed these decisions were superficial. The missionaries dug a bit deeper and found out that in the Japanese culture you are taught that when you are conquered, you have a moral obligation to accept the God of the ones who conquered you. So they added Jesus to their worship of Buddha & Confucius. So, the missionaries changed their invitation to: deny Buddha/Confucius, and accept Christ as the only true God. What happened from then on was that only a few became believers! Because it is impossible to do that without God's changing the whole reorientation of life.

The Kingdom of God is for the childlike, those who will trust in God. And the Kingdom of God is a gift of grace, where God gives his children everything that they need. So what about

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4. Those who have left children for God's sake?

²⁸ "Then Peter spoke up, 'We have left everything to follow you!'" ²⁹ "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life."

If you have left something for Jesus' sake you will not just get it back 100% but you will get it back a hundredfold. Someone once put it this way to me. I have a shovel where I give up things for God. But God has a far bigger shovel & so the more things I give up, the more I get

That's been my experience. Many of you will know that I got a particularly hard time from my family when I decided to leave my career and go into the ministry. Life was difficult for a number of years whenever I was around my parents & siblings & the thing that I found the hardest was the overseas travel I was missing out on. So going into the ministry, not earning the money I used to earn, meant it was so much harder to do the travel I wanted to do.

But when I moved to my first Church I got involved in people's lives and I suddenly I didn't just have two parents but 20 parents. Many of whom wanted to set me up with their single daughters! And I gained brothers and sisters in Christ that still have a special place in my life. And people started getting converted. And I was running kid's clubs and youth groups and so soon I had all these young people that I had a real impact over their lives. And a few years later God opened up the way for me to go on mission to Vanuatu and ever since I have loved that opportunity to be involved in people from a very different culture.

I gave up family and money and homes and gained more family and homes and money. And yet God was even more gracious than that. He gave me back many of things I was willing to lay aside. So for a long time, I have had a great relationship with my family. God's shovel was certainly bigger than mine. But along with all these things Jesus says you will also have persecution. God gives promise and persecution. Blessing and

sufferings. Because the tough times force us back to Jesus. And he himself will always make up for every loss.

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In the words of John Piper *"If you give up a mother's nearby affection and concern, you get back one hundred times the affection and concern from the ever-present Christ. If you give up the warm comradeship of a brother, you get back one hundred times the warmth and camaraderie from Christ. If you give up the sense of at-homeness you had in your house, you get back one hundred times the comfort and security of knowing that your Lord own every house and land and stream and tree on earth... Jesus (is) saying "I promise to work for you and be for you so much that you will not be able to speak of having sacrificed anything." That's the way Hudson Taylor took it, because at the end of his 50 years of missionary labour in China he said, "I never made a sacrifice."*

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So Jesus is saying to his children be prepared to leave it all. And be prepared to be brothers and sisters to those who have left it all. For we follow Jesus. The man who had everything and left it all for me. But here Jesus is talking to this RYR who in the world's eyes seemed to have everything but was not willing to give it up for the best thing. Life with Jesus.

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That man went away sad & that makes me sad. Jesus didn't push him away but loved him & wanted the best for him. He called him to childlike faith and the man walked away. What will we do today? Try and land our jumbos on a head of pin or reach out to Jesus in childlike faith? Because today Jesus is offering us the riches of eternity if we put him first and follow him. How sad if we choose what will not last for something that will last for all eternity. So don't walk away from Jesus today put him first and follow him. In everything you do.

Song – What a friend we have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Benediction (Greg W)

Thank you for joining us, and being part of Christ's church this morning. Mark Denver, Baptist Preacher said; "The church is not a place. It's not a building. It's not a preaching point. It's not a spiritual service provider. It's a people - the new covenant - blood bought people of God. That's why Paul said 'Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her' (Eph 5:25). He didn't give himself up for a place, but for a people." Let's close our service this morning with the words of Paul found in 1 Th. 5:23-24 – "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."

Morning Tea

Why not give someone (who might have had to miss Church) a call and have a cuppa together?