

21st April 2024

Series: Two Roads

Message: Reconciliation Road

A fast track on a long, winding road

Scripture: John 21: 1-19 NIV.

A night of futile fishing leaves empty nets and empty hearts. Jesus takes the initiative and meets them in the early morning light. He directs them to a miraculous catch.

- *There is a fire already lit.*
- *Fish is already frying.*
- *Bread is freshly baked.*
- *An invite is given: "Come and have breakfast."*

Jesus meets you at the water's edge of ordinary life.

- *He calls out to you.*
- *He offers you guidance.*
- *He flips your failures.*
- *He invites you to warm yourself by the fire of His unfailing love.*
- *To be nourished, forgiven, and healed.*
- *To be reconciled with past setbacks.*
- *To realise His presence.*
- *To be released into His purpose.*



HAVE WE GONE FISHING?

Peter was struggling, lost, and floundering.

Not surprisingly, he turned back to where he felt secure, comfortable, and in control, taking the other disciples with him.

"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing (Jn 21-3. NIV).

What does Peter's response to anxiety and stress say to me about my own life?

Do I recognize how inner confusion leads to thoughts of either self-reliance or giving up?

HAVE WE CAUGHT NOTHING?

"Friends, haven't you any fish?" (Jn.21.5. NIV).

Following their negative response, Jesus coaches them.

Only when they acknowledge their failure, and follow His guidance did incredible results follow.

What activities, systems, processes, rules, rituals, or regulations do we cling to that keep us up at night, and have us struggling in vain?

The Lord wants to speak to our hearts about those places, those false securities which hide us from Him.



IS IT THE LORD?

John is the first to call it out, ***"It is the Lord!" (Jn. 21.7. NIV)***

Peter was not the first to recognize Jesus but was the first to respond.

John loved and Peter acted on this love.

'Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord!" he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. "8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred metres.'

Let's follow Peter's lead. Let's jump in (overboard).

Forget the catch! Do the dash (the hundred-metre dash)!

Let's get as close as we can, as quickly as we can to Him.

Let's ask Him to show us where He wants us, recognising our failures and accepting His guidance.

Peace be with you,

Orrell

All Living Things Grow And That Growth Requires Stretching.

In John Maxwell's 15 Laws of Growth, the Law of the Rubber Band, he says: "True life begins at the end of our comfort zone, and we arrive there by stretching." When it comes to tension and stretching, a rubber band is a great example. Rubber bands are ONLY useful when they are stretched. You would not be where you are professionally, and who you are personally, without some form of tension or stretching taking place.



Combined Churches Prayer Meeting

The Zion Lutheran Church is hosting the next local Combined Churches Prayer Meeting this **Tuesday 23rd April, 6pm to 6.30pm** (9 Nash Street, Gympie - entry by O'Connell Street). All are welcome.

Next Month we're hosting the Prayer Meeting at our Gympie Church on 21st May. We encourage you to support this time of united prayer.

Congregational Meeting

*Save
the
Date*

A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for **next Sunday, 28th April, 10.45am** in our Gympie Church.

Imbil's Mother's Day Service

Our Imbil church family is celebrating Mother's Day with a special service on **Sunday, 12th May, 9am**. Linda Watt will be the guest speaker and the men will prepare and serve a delicious morning tea. It will be a wonderful morning!

Operation Christmas Child

During April we're collecting '**Something to Wear**' - Boys and Girls clothing for ages 2 to 14. Only new clothing such as t-shirts, shorts, skirts, socks, underwear, caps, beanies, thongs, etc. to fit in a shoebox-size gift pack with lots of other items. Clothing is required to have sleeves or come with a t-shirt to wear underneath.

Sound System, Livestreaming & Data Training

We're offering training on our Gympie worship technology systems - aiming to build a team of proficient operators - ~~but we haven't had any takers as yet!~~ This is a terrific opportunity to learn some new skills from a professional, so please give this your prayerful consideration and, if you're interested, let Joan or Cherylie know.

Prayer

We Pray and share in Communion in the CE Room at 8am on Tuesday mornings - we would love for you to join us. Please let the office know of any prayer needs.

Our Church

Our primary purpose is to fulfil our calling - the calling of exhibiting the character of Jesus, a spirit of humility, love, and unity, coupled with resurrection power, proving that the church is truly 'The Body of Christ' inhabited by God Himself!



UNITING 4570
Better Together

God's Goal

"God's overarching goal is to produce men and women who demonstrate the character qualities of Jesus Christ.

God does not want a church filled with white robed saints.

He does not want a church filled with theological authorities or cultured clergy.

He wants a church filled with ordinary men and women who exemplify the extraordinary integrity, temperament, wholeness, compassion, individuality, boldness, righteousness, earnestness, love, forgiveness, selflessness, and faithfulness of Jesus Christ!" *Ray Steadman*

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)

Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

Church Office... M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Rev Orrell Battersby.. 0423 985 200 orrell@gruc.org

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250

Offering & Attendance Over Easter

Attendance: Adults 69 ♦ Children 9 ♦ Facebook 33 ♦ YouTube 10

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,438.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)