

# Christ Lutheran Church

*Hear God's Word, Grow in Jesus,  
Share His love*

January 13, 2018

To the ends of the earth – By any means necessary. Part 2 of 3  
Isaiah 43:1-10 by Pastor Dave Goehmann

Some people want something so badly they will stop at nothing to get it.

Some people will break the rules in order get what they want. They will cheat to win. They will lie to be popular. Some people would even go so far to kill a person so that they would gain riches.

We know those things are wrong and those deep desires can ruin our lives if we let our passions luster. Nothings worse than a fantasy that we can't get out of our head. That desire and fantasy will lead us astray. It's like a burning passion and want for something is so wrong that it makes it that more tempting.

Greed, indulgence, gratification, lust are just a few words that lead to sin. Let's not forget the sin that often gets forgotten that is coveting. Did you realize that there is one sin that is as simple as the desire to ruin your life?

Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife, or his servants, his ox or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbors. I can see someone in the great state

of Nebraska coveting someone else's cattle. But if you are coveting someone else's donkey you have sunk to an all time low.

I personally know people who destroyed their marriages through coveting. I personally know people who have ruined sibling relationships. And I personally know people who have ruined friendships over coveting.

Achan in the Bible did just that, ruining his own life and the lives of his family members. Joshua 7:24 tells the story when "all Israel with Joshua took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. Achan with all that he had died because of his sin.

In the same way Coveting along with other selfish passions drive people apart. Those desires also tear us away from God. And we all like sheep have gone astray, we have wandered about as far as we can go. Our sin, daily, daily, leads us right to the grave. It is pitiful. We are pitiful. People are pitiful, every one of us.

That's the bad news. But Remember the story of Jonah. How he did what he wanted and ran from his job to preach to the Ninevites. I mean, who doesn't listen to the almighty God when he tells someone to do something. Oh wait like I just said, that is all of us.

Jonah ran the other direction. And so what did God do? He went after him with a whale. He went after Jonah with the biggest animal on the planet. And it swallowed him up, only to reveal that he would three days later be spewed up on the shore. That story not only reflects the power of God to save one man, it also shows the power of God's Word to save a nation built on violence in Nineveh.

Although people move ahead to their destruction like people riding on an unstoppable aircraft carrier that moves ahead, with the snap of his fingers God can turn a huge ship around in an instant. God's got the power, by any means to bring us back to himself. When we are his, we are his.

God's got you and he is not going to let you go without a fight. God ripped his people away from Egypt. God was quite willing to let Pharaoh's army be swallowed up by the Red Sea to save his people. God was willing to let the people die in a flood in order to save Noah and his family. Why does God always use water in his greatest stories of salvation? Oh yah, baptism.

God's passion for you works in just the reverse of your own. It draws you to him and to each other, not apart. By reasons we can't understand, Jesus had to die. It was necessary for us and for all people's eternal salvation.

God let Jesus die that he loved so that millions, or billions, or trillions of people might live? We can trust God knows what he is doing and that when

someone has to die it's for good reason. God even values what we might see as meaningless as it says at the end of Jonah, God had mercy on a bunch of cows.

In 2005 the famous movie Cinderella Man was a hit. It was not simply a fictional drama like Disney's Cinderella with talking mice. It was a true story based on a family in need. James Braddock was a skilled boxer from New Jersey who broke his hand and was forced to look for another way to care for his family.

As the United States enters the Great Depression, James Braddock did manual labor as a longshoreman to support his family, even with his injured hand. Some other men and families desperate for survival would steal and cheat to get ahead. Unfortunately, Braddock cannot get work every day as he tries to make an honest living. Thanks to a last-minute cancellation by another boxer, Braddock's longtime manager and friend, Joe Gould, offers him a chance to fill in for just one night and earn cash. The fight is against the number-two contender in the world, Corn Griffin. Cinderella man won matches that beat incredible odds.

This is was just like Jesus who died to save not just one family, but all of his children. You can be like Jesus also in the way you live, denying what you want with all the sinful passions, and going out to the ends of the earth, forgiven by his love. We reach out with Jesus hands and feet to save the world. Amen