

***Celebrating the Work of KBECET***  
*(Kiama Board for Employing Christian Education Teachers Inc.)*

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**Reading**

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**1 Peter 2:1-10**

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner',

<sup>8</sup>and  
'A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

Hear what God's Spirit is saying to the church.

***Thanks be to God.***

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**Listening for God's Voice**

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Our reflection this week is brought to us by Wicky Onyango, Christian Education Teacher at Kiama High School:

## **The Jesus Curry Pots: Spread the aroma of Christ- 1 Peter 2:9-10**

One of the things I remember from my childhood is the aromas of curry in my old Kenyan neighbourhood in Nairobi.

Curries are very popular in Kenya, and as a Nation We thank the Indians Recruited by the British to build the railway line in the late 1800's/early 1900s'.

I remember the times when curry was being cooked, the entire neighbourhood block knew about it. You could not escape the Aroma! The smell of garlic and ginger and Cumin, Turmeric and Cardamon. MMH! YUM! Makes my mouth water!

**I bet you are asking, "what's curry got to do with a sermon?"**

Well... In my limited mind- one of my favourite analogies of a Christian's relationship with Jesus is a pot full of Curry.

To me Jesus is like a delicious Curry and as His followers, we are the pots.

By His grace God has chosen ordinary pots like you and I to be vessels filled with His Glorious Goodness.

In all of God's wisdom and love, He gives us a new identity in Christ Jesus. **In 2 Corinth 5:17** we hear the words <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.<sup>[a]</sup> The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (ESV)

Jesus died on the Cross to get rid of our old identity ridden with the stench of death as God's enemies. And He rose again to give us a new Identity filled with His Life-Giving Aroma.

*Why? So that we may enjoy Life with Him*

*but also let it spread in all of the spheres he has placed us as we seek to invite others to come to God's table.*

This is why I Love, Love, Love the ministry we have at Kiama High to teach scripture. God has given us the Privilege of sharing His Life-giving Gospel with students and staff so that they may draw near and feast at God's Table. I Thank God for classroom discussions and the many chats with staff in the dining room I have had around life and faith. I believe, now more than ever, our community needs to hear the good news of Jesus and find Hope in who He is.

At the beginning of last year, we saw Bushfire's ravage communities in the south coast. We are currently experiencing the socio-economic impacts of covid-19. And sadly, as a community we are still grieving the precious lives lost in the series of suicides that have rocked our community in the past months. Not to forget that there might be some here this morning, who are fighting some personal Goliaths as well.

So how do we stay Joyful and passionate about God in such tough times? As individual Jesus Curry Pots, We who bear the name of Jesus, How are we to Spread the aroma of the Gospel when we ourselves are experiencing Hardships?

*My encouragement to you this morning is, **keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and Trust in His word.***

*This term the year 7s have been exploring how the word of God offers People Hope by teaching us about who God is, and how it Corrects and rebukes us in our missteps so that we may live as God's people.*

As I am sure you are aware, the Bible reveals to us the heart of God and our identity in Him.

***As Christians, knowing our identity in Jesus gives us purpose in this broken world. We also find strength to face whatever challenges life throws at us.***

So, if you have your Bibles with you, please open, click or swipe to **1 Peter 2:1-10** as we Turn to God's Trustworthy word.

***Our main emphasis this morning will be on verse 9 and 10. For context we will start from verse 1.***

**Read 1 Peter 2:1-10.**

In verse 9 and 10, Peter used the imagery similar to the one in Exodus 19 where God reminded the Israelites their identity and purpose as God's Chosen Nation.

Peter reminded the church that, that their Identity and purpose was Anchored in Christ Jesus.

**Read 1 Peter 2:9-10** <sup>9</sup>*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* <sup>10</sup>*Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (NIV)*

In these verses we find **an encouraging truth** that is precious and timeless for us the church, but also as individuals who make up the church.

This truth was helpful to the 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians and certainly helpful to us in 2021.

**This Truth is that -As Christians, our identity and Purpose are anchored in Jesus –**

or in my words, as a collective We are the Jesus Curry pot!

Vs. 9 says ***but you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession,***

So, the first thing for us to remember about our identity in Christ is that we have been chosen by God to Be His special people.

The God who made the universe by the power of His word,

God who is eternally sovereign over the entire universe Chose you and I to be part of his eternal family. How amazing is that!

Now the Bible is very clear that this choosing is not like in sports where coaches choose players based on players strengths and abilities, but rather God's Choosing was purely based on His Grace and mercy.

**Here is a quick story for you...**

(In one of the year 9 lessons late last year, we explored what God's Grace looks like in the Bible- and I must say it's one of my favourite topics to teach.

To explain grace, I brought a give-away gift to the lesson (covid sanctified off cause 😊).

I then gave a challenge and explained that somebody would get the gift at the end of the challenge.

(Challenge) For the challenge I got some of the students to make paper aeroplanes-----I then gave them an “impossible” target to hit - (that’s what I hoped for, for the analogy to work)-

and one by one off they went launching their aeroplanes to hit the target.

You’ll be pleased to know. None of them hit the target. Phew!

At the end of the challenge, I gave the gift to one of the students who didn’t participate in the challenge or to the least deserving.

(Reactions) And in came the mixed reactions- from its not fair- I was the closest to the target, I should get it, to I don’t think I deserve it- maybe she/he should get it.

Even though the analogy has shortfalls- it expressed the point on grace. God doesn’t give us what we deserve but instead gives us what we don’t deserve. The choosing is based on a Good God loving underserving people.

Verse 10 says...

*<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

In Romans 5:6-8 Paul puts it this way... *you see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NIV)*

While we were undeserving of God’s love-He chose to love us anyway through Jesus.

So, it’s a gift to be part of God’s family and it is not based on Merit.

**The second thing to remember about our identity in Christ is that** we belong to the Royal Priesthood of God.

Better than the Levitical priesthood in the OT, **we all have direct access** to the all loving and Almighty God through Jesus our High Priest.

We can now dedicate to God our hearts and our lives through Jesus for the glory and honour of God’s name.

And God calls us, as his royal priesthood to be people of prayer.

Not to worry or be anxious about anything, but to present our burdens and our cares before Him at all times-Because He cares for us and He always answers Prayers in His own wise ways.

So, if you are here and you feel weighed down by your cares, or you feel like the world is crumbling around you- Please be encouraged-

**you belong to God's royal priesthood.**

**Like the persistent widow in Jesus' parable,**

Please do not give up on praying for your needs, or those of others around you or those of the world that we live in.

I am very thankful for all of you who pray for the SRE ministry at our local primary schools and at Kiama High. It's comforting to know that my needs and the needs of Kiama High are always being uplifted before God's presence.

Finally, the third thing you should remember about Our identity in Christ, your identity in Christ, is that:

You are **Holy**- as a church we are Holy. Holy here simply means "set apart for a purpose. "

**Here is a quick brainstorm for you-** out of all the items in your kitchen, which one would you consider Holy?

At My house it would have to be the **cheese knife** 😊 it has a very specific purpose...to cut cheese. The only time it comes out is when there is cheese on the table.

**As God's child you are Like the Cheese knife among the other knives in the kitchen- you are set apart by God for a purpose.**

**As a body of Christians, we are like the cheese knife in the world. - we are set apart by God for a purpose within the world.**

That Purpose is to reflect God's Heart and to declare His **awesomeness** in the world.

Like a curry pot, we are set apart to be vessels that spread the aroma of Christ to the world around us.

We spread the aroma of Christ by allowing Him to shape- How we **think**-how we **feel**-what we **say** to others and what we **do** through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As individual Jesus Curry pots, we are to Value God's word and walk in the holiness of life just as Jesus our perfect redeemer teaches us in His Word.

As God's church we are to be the light in the world, a city on a hill, a lighthouse for a world full of raging seas.

Because now more than ever, we need to know,

Our neighbours need to know, Students in our schools need to know that ...

there is Hope in Jesus.

There is everlasting Joy in Jesus.

There is peace that surpasses all understanding in Jesus and above all LIFE to the Full is readily available in Jesus the Lion and the Lamb who is seated on at the right hand of the father.

My prayer for us this Morning is that, As followers of Jesus, May we draw our strength and comfort in knowing who our Triune God is:

He loves and knows each and every one of us by name-  
he cares about us and wants us to lay our burdens at His feet.

I also Pray that as people who bear His name, **may we  
endeavour to spread His aroma** to those around us.

Be it through the sharing of a meal with a neighbour, or  
sharing the gospel with a family or friend

or through your prayers and generosity in supporting God's  
work locally and internationally. And I thank God for your  
support towards KBECET.

May God enable us to spread His life-giving aroma Everywhere  
we go. To the glory and honour of His name, Amen!