



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021



## Strawberry Jam

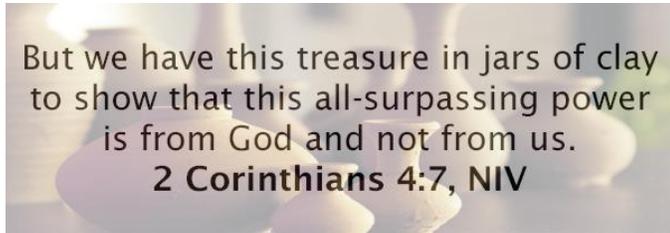
In the centre of my grandmother's kitchen table was a very special glass jar that was always filled with the most delicious homemade strawberry jam I have ever tasted to date! Anyone who graced my grandmother's table on a regular basis inevitably learned, through experience, that there was treasure in the jar. The jar itself was never the focus but only the vessel that held the treasure, which was the jam!

When the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to the truth about Jesus and you make a decision to welcome Him into your heart, you become a vessel that is filled with the greatest treasure in the universe; the Spirit of Christ Himself. Your life can then be lived out with purpose and direction.

I can be a happy person, but when God's Spirit is allowed to work in me what people see is the joy of the Lord. I can do my best to be kind, but under the Spirit's leading His kindness in me can lead someone to true repentance and position them for deep healing. When I allow the Lord to rule and reign in every area of my life, I actually begin to look like Jesus in my attitudes and actions and people are drawn to Him not me.

I still have my grandma's jar. It is a sentimental reminder of precious memories from my past, however, without her jam it has lost its purpose. One of the saddest things that can happen to a human heart is to live without purpose or direction; to be the jar but never experience the treasure.

If that is you today and you have been wondering what your purpose is, may I introduce or re-introduce you to Jesus Christ? He is the Son of God who gave His life and shed His blood on the cross so that you could come into a dynamic personal relationship with Him, be forgiven of your sin and become part of the greatest adventure any human being could ever hope to live. His forgiveness is the greatest gift you will ever need.



But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.  
**2 Corinthians 4:7, NIV**

Don't miss this opportunity. Can I encourage you to take a quiet moment right now to share your heart with the Lord? Be real about where you are and what you need. And then, take some intentional time to listen.

-Tracy Bankuti | Seeds of the Kingdom

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Bible

**PINK RIBBON CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST**

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ

20th May 2021  
10am - 12pm  
at Salmon Tales in Rakaia  
Tickets \$40

Available at Salmon Tales or text Catherine on 022 070 8324

- Champaigne Breakfast
- Competitions
- Silent Auction

Reflection for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
Change of Focus; Selected reading Acts 1 : 6 - 14

Theme; Ascension was a time of enormous transition for the disciples and later for the church. The church added Ascension to the Christian calendar because Jesus moved from body to Spirit, from earth to heaven.

Encountering Acts; The book of Acts ends with the great word, unhindered; Some translate it as "without hindrance". We are told that this God whom we serve is not confined to earth. Ascension in this first chapter reminds us that truly God is ruler of heaven and earth. Those first disciples stood there squinting and mouth-opened. They did not understand as they gazed into the heavens. Two men, presumably angels, came and spoke to them. They were to turn their gaze from heaven to earth. They were to return to jobs and families they had left, to a world that still did not believe. There would be many hindrances to their work and witness, but God will break down every barrier and leap over every wall until the kingdoms of this world would become the kingdoms of the Christ. Even after all these years the vision of the hindered gospel is largely unfinished. The book of Acts is a book of transitions. Today's message deals with one of those great transitions. It began, as most events in scripture and in life, months before the event. Jesus had been warning his followers for months that he would leave them, but he had reassured them " "I will not leave you orphans"

At St. Andrew's Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am Rev John will give his message on Acts 1; 1 - 11. All most welcome.

Prayer; We long for your kingdom to come, Lord. As we look at this troubled world we grow weary of so many problems. We often wonder if the lights really does overcome the darkness Today we stand with the disciples looking up into the heavens. Give us again a new vision of a new heaven and new earth. Help us to move, as did those early believers, back into our lives with courage and faithfulness. Show us once more this Spirit, which really does energise our flagging hearts and our troubled days. Come, Holy Spirit and be our welcome guest. Amen.

Reflection from the resources by Roger Lovette.

**St. John's Methven**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May

2.30 pm | Meeting

**St. Andrew's Rakaia**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | A time for friendship, fun, and support. Welcome to all pre-school children.

1:00 pm | Steady As You Go | Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being..

2:00 pm | Mission Meeting in the Church Lounge

**\*\*Request for more jam jars please.**

**We have been busy supplying the Sharing Shed and church foyer sales and the cupboard is nearly bare.**



Deepest sympathy and prayers extended to the Crampton family, the passing of Frank.  
Deepest sympathy and prayers extended to the Maw families for the passing of Joyce.

May Sunday Services			
16 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Neville Burns
23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:00 am	Staveley   Presentation to Rev. Arii	Pastor Paul Eden
30 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Parish Worship Team; Café Service, commencing with morning tea at 10:15 am	(Trinity Sunday)

Prayer: Thank You, Lord Jesus, for making a way for me to live a life of purpose in Your Kingdom. I acknowledge my need of You as my Saviour and Lord. I truly want to reflect who You are so that people will be drawn to You and not to me. I ask for Your forgiveness for my sin and for the times that the emphasis has been all about me. I invite You anew to reveal Yourself to me so that I can be a useful vessel in Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen.

-Tracy Bankuti | Seeds of the Kingdom