

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster  
Sunday, March 13th, Lent II  
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35

The Pharisees warn Jesus that Herod has a plot to kill him. And a prophet is not killed outside of Jerusalem.

Is this a case of the enemy of my enemy is my friend? Are the Pharisees friends with Jesus because they have something against King Herod? What is their motive?

Is it because they're afraid of what King Herod will do? And they were afraid that if he decides to silence Jesus that they will get caught in the crossfire and may themselves lose power and maybe even their own lives?

So is their motive to get Jesus to go and hide so they don't have to deal with him and what he's saying and doing, and it won't get Herod upset either. Are the Pharisees thinking that Jesus is making a nuisance of himself then will get both them and himself in trouble?

Is this for all of us, taking the road of least resistance? Is this the temptation?

Yet to be in community and in relationship with God and to love others is about excitement and abundance of life, but not always the easy way forward.

Perhaps this says something about being in community and systems theory.

I am reminded meeting two women in theology school. They were divorced because their husbands were OK with them going back to school, but both husbands expected nothing else to change in their relationship. The husbands became upset when their wives were studying and supper was no longer on the table when they expected it, and as it had been in the past. It's the same thing in a marriage when you add a child or children to the relationship. The whole system changes.

Jesus coming on scene and doing what he did was changing the system. There was more than likely an uneasy peace between the Pharisees and King Herod and the religious elite.

This could also mean the Pharisees were not particularly against Jesus and didn't want anything to happen to him and didn't want anything to happen to themselves either.

Maybe this suggests that we are all connected to one another. That's what happens to any of us affects the rest of us. This means caring for each other because there is a benefit in doing so for ourselves as well as the person we are helping.

Amen