

Reflection Wednesday Week 2 - 2021

When we dislike someone or something, it is all too easy to find what we believe to be valid reasons for our dislike. Because we do this, we fail or are unable to see any good in that person or thing. In the gospel today, the Pharisees, who disliked Jesus and wanted to bring him down, were even willing to join with the Herodians, who they disliked, in order to bring down Jesus – *the enemy of my enemy is my friend!* Scholars note that *the two parties were essentially different from each other, archenemies even. The Pharisees and the Herodians were rivals, and normally would not be on speaking terms.* Their action is more than dislike it is fuelled by a desire to destroy a person's character, in this case - Jesus. Let us never become like that. Reflecting on the anger of Jesus, described by Mark, it would have been an anger motivated by love, not just a love for the cripple but also a love for the Pharisees. Jesus would have been aware of the harm the pharisees were doing to themselves and to their party. But let us not forget that not all the pharisees were against Jesus (viz. Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea). It is always important to look for the good in the people we dislike or find hard to love. Over time we will see them differently. Also know that some of the faults we see in others also exist in us – a sobering thought! Let us respond to Jesus' question "Which is right, to do good or to do evil, save life or kill?" by doing good and seeking to save life.

Martin Luther King, Jr.: Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. . . There is some good in the worst of us, and some evil in the best of us.

Abraham Lincoln: The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend.

Desmond Tutu: Love your enemy; it will ruin his reputation.

How do Chinese spies introduce themselves to their enemies? They say, "I'm Wa-Ching Yu!"

What vegetables are a sailor's enemy? Leeks!

What do you call an enemy plant? Foeliage.