

Up in Canaan for the last couple of weeks, I've been seeing a campaign lawn sign that made me laugh. It was down today I saw now that the election has been called for our now president-elect, Joe Biden. But that lawn sign said "Jesus 2020."

But I don't think that Jesus would have run for office if that were even possible in his day, and I don't think Jesus, when he returns, will run for office in our day either. I just don't think it would have been his sort of thing. What would the Jesus for president campaign have looked like this year anyway? Would he preach to crowds gathered around him like he did in last week's recitation of the Beatitudes, "blessed are the peacemakers" as he spoke in the sermon on the mount? Who is this guy? Soft on crime, it looks like!

Or would Jesus opt for remote speechmaking as he did many times in a boat off the shore of the Sea of Galilee? As any of you who are boaters know, sound carries very well over the water. Good choice of a place to speak where everyone will hear you, but no one will try to trample you.

Would candidate Jesus make campaign promises? Well, if he did they would be ones that tell us again of God's promises in which we trust; life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We would hope for a positive message of restoration of unity over division, and mercy and justice. But would candidate Jesus preach the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids and have any hope at all of getting elected?

In this parable we heard today those looking for a message from Jesus of redistribution of wealth (such as from the Song of Mary) or mercy shown to those without work (such as the parable of the generous landowner) will be very disappointed.

Jesus tells us in the parable today that there are the wise and the foolish. The wise will be ready to enter the Kingdom of God and the foolish will not. And there is no help for it. The wise are unable to share their wealth of oil and the foolish, if they go seeking oil at a late hour may find that the hour is too late. The door is shut.

Telling this parable to the crowd at a rally would not be a winning strategy for a presidential candidate!

And yet, this is how life is...this is how elections are! If you didn't mail in your ballot in time, or if you didn't go to your local polling place by the time the polls closed you were out of luck. There is a point when it's too late. If you don't cast your vote, then your vote can't be counted.

We have to see from the eyes of Jesus, and think with the mind of Jesus. What this parable is about is not stinginess over generosity or adherence to the law over mercy. Jesus is talking about bringing

about the Kingdom of God in his time and we can say the same about our time. The Kingdom of God will not come about by us sitting on the sidelines and hoping someone else will take care of it.

Time and time again in the Gospels Jesus tells his followers to bear fruit if they want to be part of God's kingdom.

⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,. (John 15:16a)

We have to get up and do something. And so this is what the parable is about. If we want to have light for the evening then it is incumbent on ourselves to be sure we obtain some while there is daylight. We we want to have a community in which all people feel cared for, seen and understood, then we have to be people who care for others, who see and understand others. It won't happen by itself.

I'll leave you with one small example. Trinity Church is very glad that we are known as a church that actively supports the Corner Food Pantry. And yet, week after week, the basket outside of the red doors of the church has only one or two items in it that Barry diligently takes and delivers to CFP.

We like that we are a church that supports food for the hungry. We have an opportunity in the next week to remember to do so by participating in our annual "Feed and Family of Four for a Week." This year, you may rather write a check to the CFP rather than bringing food to the church. But however you do it, let's make sure that people who are food insecure know that this community cares about them...not just by talking about it, but by actually supporting our ongoing project.

And if you are one of the few people that does put food in the basket, or sends money to CFP or any food pantry, thank you.