

Subject: Trick-proof
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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To: "Larry" <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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St Francis



December 3, 2014

Trick-proof

And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said; and being amazed by his answer, they became silent.

Luke 20:26

Where To Stand

The leaders in Israel at the time of Jesus became so angry with Him they wanted to kill Him. They were unable to do anything to trip Him up, catch Him in His words, or make Him look foolish at all. One of the dynamics in this adversarial relationship with Jesus is that they were also separate from the people. It seems the people were receiving from Jesus and the leaders of Israel were not. Jesus was challenging the leaders in some very direct ways and they wanted to distance themselves from Him. Jesus also challenged the people in some very direct ways but they did not want to distance themselves from Him. There is a challenge for us in this: Do we want to distance ourselves from Jesus in some way so as to not deal with any challenge He has for us, or do we want to stand with those who are coming closer to Him regardless of the challenge?

What's The Difference?

When we stand on our own and individually decide if we want to take up what Jesus is asking we will more likely try to keep Him at arm's length and not take up His call. When we stand with others and share in the mission He has for us we will be able to see more of Him through each other than we would on our own and be able to rise to the challenge He puts before us. We will be more likely to ask for His power to meet His challenge when we have the encouragement and friendship of others who are also meeting His challenge. We might not always look good doing things that way, but we will start looking more and more like Him. We might stop trying to find

ways to trick ourselves out of following Him.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, December 7, 2014 worship at 10:00am

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 vestry meeting at 6:00pm

Sunday, December 14, 2014 worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Sunday, December 21, 2014 worship at 10:00am with liturgical dance
by the Aspire Dance Academy

Wednesday, December 24, 2014 Christmas Eve worship at 6:00pm

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For McDonald's that the business would grow, and many would find
employment

Diocese of Virginia

For the congregations and clergy of Piedmont, Madison; St. Andrew's,
Burke; St. John's, Columbia; Emmanuel, Rapidan; Grace Church, Bremo
Bluff; Meade Memorial, Alexandria.

Metropolitan Richmond

For the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For single-parent families,
adoptive families, foster families, and for households that are communities
of friends; for elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement
communities and in nursing homes.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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*St. Francis Episcopal Church
PO Box 303
Manakin Sabot, VA 23103*

804-784-6116

info@stfrancisva.org
www.stfrancisva.org

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