

Subject: Croiuching
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 1/13/2016 10:03:32 AM
To: "Larry" <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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S† Francis



January 13, 2016

Crouching

*And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door.
It's desire is for you, but you must rule over it.
Genesis 4:7*

Cain and Abel

I know its the season of Epiphany, sometimes called the missionary season. I know that Lent is several weeks away. However, in the readings for Morning Prayer this morning the story of Cain and Abel was appointed and this verse about sin crouching at the door was in the middle of the reading. I couldn't help myself. I had to comment on it. Have I succumbed to some kind of sin by dealing with sin when it is not Lent? Not really. Sin is always there. I know it is for me and I am guessing it is for you, too. My problem with the whole problem of sin is that I cannot do what this verse seems to be telling me I have to do. I have to rule over sin. Otherwise, it will surely get me. But I simply cannot rule over sin. I can try to be nice, and a lot of times I am, but I cannot rule over sin. It is completely beyond me. I fail every time at keeping the 10 commandments and generally living up to not sinning. So did Cain. He up and killed his brother, Abel, because God accepted Abel's sacrifice and not his. Haven't you been jealous of someone for some reason? Have you silently wished or prayed that their "sins would find them out," in other words- God would get them? Can you refrain from that wish on your own power? Probably not.

You and Me

Now what? How do we deal with this? First of all, we need to remember that God is not out to get us, even if that is what we have been taught. God is out to love us ***and to save us from our sins***. Why is that important? Because I cannot save myself from my sins, let alone rule over my sins. But, Jesus can, and will, and does. It is no use for me to pretend I can manage my own sin. It is extremely important that I put all my trust on Jesus to forgive me, change me, lead me, and teach me. He does this through prayer, worship, service, and fellowship with other sinners. One thing I find (among others) when I am "leaning on the everlasting arms," I begin to have eyes to see the value of others and the gifts God has given them. I can also see great value our neighborhoods, offices, teams, and circles of friends.

Lent

May I get the jump on Lent? Please do not give up something for five weeks out of a sense of duty. Instead lets find a way to get to know the One who rules over our sin by having paid the price for it, who loves us more than we can know, who grows us up from the inside out. Starting Ash Wednesday (or right now) we can get to know Jesus better than we do at this point.

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, January 13, 2016:

Vestry Committee 4:00pm

Theology on Tap 6:30pm

Caregivers' Support Group 7:00pm

Sunday, January 17, 2016 Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, January 24, 2016 Worship at 10:00am

Our Missional Communities

Symphony will meet at Symphony Manor on January 24, 2016 at 9:00am. Contact Bobbie Leviness at bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

Please bring non perishable food to worship for the Food Pantry at the Goochland Free Clinic and family Services.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Sycamore Creek Golf Course that the volunteers would be fulfilled in their service.

Diocese of Virginia

For the clergy and people of Immanuel-on-the-Hill, Alexandria; St. Asaph's, Bowling Green; Vauter's, Loretto; St. Stephen's, Catlett; Grace, Casanova.

Metropolitan Richmond

That all people in our area experience the victory of Jesus' resurrection over all personal and institutional results of racism and racial inequality.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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