

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Wednesday 23rd November 2022

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

If my maths is correct, yesterday was the 59th anniversary of the assassination of JFK. I must admit, that for a number of years I held very strongly to various conspiracy theories associated with it. It got to the stage where I thought those who argued for the official version of events outlined in the Warren Commission's findings, were deluded or ignorant! Nowadays, although I still think there might be a case for a conspiracy, I don't have very strong feelings either way when I think about it, which is not often!

We live in an age of conspiracy theories, Jill and I have just been listening to the podcast, *The Coming Storm*, which explores an extraordinary conspiracy theory held by QAnon. Of course, conspiracies take place all the time, and we need to call them out. It's when theories are held without any real evidence and more importantly when its adherents cannot listen to an opposing view, or even facts, that problems take place.

It would be a mistake to think, that this closed mind, or prejudice, whether or not relating to a conspiracy, is just practiced by a fringe minority. Listening with an open mind (which is a mind that is open to be changed if convinced) seems to be an art not much in evidence in much of the political discourses that take place, for example. But before we slam our politicians, we should ask our selves whether we practice what we want them to.

When was the last time, we praised an opinion or a policy by someone we normally would be on the other side of politically? It's important to have our opinions and convictions, and to talk about them, but surely by the law of averages there must be something they say that we agree with?! Would we praise them in front of our close circle of friends? I know it's not always that simple, but someone who knew what He was talking about once said, **The Truth shall Set You free**. Isn't that what the majority of us want, to be set free from the rather toxic nature of political debate in this country. But the truth will almost always challenge us.

Something to think about, no?

BIBLE VERSE:

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. - Matthew 7:1-2