

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Wednesday 9th August 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Traitors and the Faithfull

Jill and I have enjoyed watching The Traitors, a reality game show. There are three versions of it on BBC Iplayer, the UK, US and Australian. The show, adapted from a Dutch show, has around 20 contestants, and on the first day, three or four of them are secretly selected to be the Traitors. The remaining are called the Faithful. Once the selection is made, the game begins in earnest, for a pot of money. The Faithful must work out who the Traitors are, and they get to banish one of them each night. The Traitors, must be careful not to give anything away, and each night they get to send a Faithful home by 'murdering' them. When the game ends, there are usually two, three or four contestants left. If there are any Traitors among them, they get all the money. If there are no Traitors left, then the Faithful who remain split the money between them.

What has really struck me, is despite some subtle differences, how all three groups of contestants have so much in common. Each group were quite easily manipulated by the traitors, who subtly sowed seeds of suspicion among the faithful. Pretty much everyone wanted to either fit in or stand out. No matter how independent a thinker they wanted to be, most people followed the crowd, specially at the start of the game. Everyone thought they are good at reading people and yet most of the time they got it wrong. The few times a Faithful did get it spectacularly right no one else listened to them. Every series developed its clicks, with those in and those out. In every series, objectivity was overruled by personal likes and dislikes, but no one seemed to want to admit to that. And so every group of people were quite easily manipulated by the Traitors.

I know its only a game, but it did strike me, for all the difference and distances there are between people, how much we all have in common. Generally speaking, each of us have the good, the bad, the ugly and the lovely! None of us are perfect and we all have something to contribute. Deep down, we are all human beings, trying to make sense and our way in this world. Let's not allow a few self seeking 'Traitors' whether they be influencers, politicians, media moguls, business or 'religious' leaders, to manipulate us and divide us.

A follower of Jesus, must be wise to the cunning of the world.

In Jesus, all that divides us, has been broken, smashed.

BIBLE VERSE:

28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and

female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

-Galatians 3:28