

There is great humour in the thought that the Pharisees tried “to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said.”

Here was the Son of God giving the fullest possible expression to the reality of Divine love.

Here was the “WORD” made flesh

Here was the way, the truth, and the life.

But of course the Pharisees knew better

The Pharisees were the experts

And let’s face it, in the words of the popular heresy “My opinion is as good as yours”

All the rest being fake news.

The Pharisees went into discussion with Jesus not to grow in understanding, but to grow in status.

Like the row between husband and wife, avoiding the real issues and focusing with angry words upon weaknesses and ingrained faults.

One desperate to pull out an observation, or witty comment that would mean that they win.

That would lead to animosity, and not resolution, but would mean that they had won.

Argument not discussion

Control not learning.

Pharisee ask yourself why are you doing this.

Like the patient desperate to avoid the truth. Frightened of potential consequences, unwilling to make the sacrifices.

Who tells the surgeon that they do not respect the medical conclusions of the diagnosis.

Thus they ask for a second opinion,

And the surgeon agrees that they can have a second opinion. Then points out that in his/her opinion they are really stupid as well.

The man in the street questions

But just a minute

Pharisee ask yourself why are you doing this.

Like my uncle Jimmy who spoke to me about the faith in the middle of my training.

He was corrected by my aunt.

“Jimmy” she said “it’s not catechism, but catAchism”

Yes says he, and I know a big word too.

“Corrugated Iron”

To prove who was the most clever

The discussion not about the subject but about status.

Pharisee ask yourself why are you doing this.

Ok win the argument and lose a friend

Defend your opinion as if it were the same thing as your own personal integrity

Prove that you are more clever than the person with whom you have decided to debate.

Or learn

Or listen

Or grow

The Pharisees knew better than the Son of God and died in their ignorance

You stand before an infinite sea of discovery

Have the God given humility

To be prepared to learn.