The Obstacles of Others

A Lenten Study

During Lent this year, my sermons will be exploring the obstacles that Jesus faced in his ministry. These range from people to concepts, and not all of them are things that Jesus overcomes. No life is without its own obstacles, and hearing the obstacles that others face may allow us to be more empathetic, and also think about the challenges that we face in new ways, as well as how we might interpret scripture or faith in new ways.

This study consists of one scripture drawn from the upcoming worship service, an online video less than 20 minutes long, and a couple of questions for reflection. You are welcome to engage with this material in whatever way you would like and at any time. If you are interested in discussing anything that comes out of this process, please email me to indicate your interest and you will be included in the planning of a discussion session, likely on ZOOM, during Holy Week.

We pray that all burdens are lifted, but until that time may we hear one another with love.

—Rev. Scott

Week Five

Thought Slime

“My final crummy jobs (I hope) in Cellphone heck”

Link: <https://youtu.be/5fcQTgZKCYY>

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Matt (who also goes by Mildred) is a anarchist-leaning politics and culture commentator. In this video they talk about the series of bad jobs they had. Though the majority of the video covers jobs working for cellphone retailers (which will also be relevant for the questions below) Matt covers a story early on in the video about working at Toys’R’Us. Corporate expectations to offer a useless warranty did not match with Matt’s values and it meant that they chose to quit that job.

Looking at what Matt (Thought Slime) is advocating for, it is a little similar to Judas’ complaint about Mary. Money, in both cases, is not being given to those most in need. What is the purpose of corporate greed, and what might Mary’s purpose be in buying the perfume? If you think Matt or Judas have a point, what might could their opponents use against them in order to undermine their points? In both scenarios, who is in the right?