March 10th, 2019

Springfield Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday In Lent

Power Play

I. More Power

 Since I live in a British-American or American-British home (it depends on how much tea is had that day) – a common topic that is brought up in our household is Brexit and the unknown effects. Recently, a comic journalist, Samantha Bee, in a segment on TBS broadcasted, “An Brief Guide History of Brexit for Americans.” The essence of Brexit is that 51% of British folk voted to leave the European Union and 49% wished to remain as part of the EU. With such a close vote, the questions are looming: what happens next, will the next vote later on this month bring Britain any further?

 And it is anxiety provoking and stressful, for either side, and within this segment by Samantha Bee, her co-host spoke about the transfer of power in a comical way. The Prime Minister David Cameron wanted more power, so he set the referendum out, not thinking it would win, and he lost power. And Corbyn and May and other political figures come along, vying for power. As we watch from America, it seems like it’s all a political power play and that at this point, no one really understands what Brexit is all about – but the reality is, however this plays out, it will have consequences that hurt people, for the cost of power.

 Now, it would be unfair to point to the UK and say, “Look at them, shame, shame.” I use it alone for a simple reference point to power. We would be lying to ourselves if we didn’t admit that there are power plays everywhere you go – from Capital Hill, to office politics, to church politics, and even family system politics. At Capital Hill, who will be heard and will gain power and prestige? In the office, who will climb to the top of the salary bracket by any means, just to gain more power? In our churches, who will be behind the scenes, sometimes in genuine ways to serve the church, but sometimes to see their way and vision succeed? In our homes, who is the head of the household, who is our protector but also the person who draws the fine line in the sand? Let us not deceive ourselves – you cannot escape it, you may be the powerful one or not, but in most, if not all, arenas of our lives – you’ll find the power play.

II. Jesus and the Pharisees

 It would then not surprise you to see that Jesus was in no way exempt from the power play of his culture and day.