

The Rev. Dr. Jan C. Heller
Proper 25, Year A, Matthew 22:34-46
29 October 2017
Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church, Bainbridge Island, WA

Kids First Sunday

Do your teachers or parents ever ask you hard questions as part of a learning game?

- We heard this morning that Jesus was asked a hard question as part of learning game, but it was a very different kind of learning game
 - It was different because, in this game, everyone knew the answer to the question Jesus was asked, and the real question was not the one we heard, but one we didn't hear
 - The real question was, "Whose game will you play, Jesus?" Will Jesus play their game or will he play some other game?
- This was a kind of game that was not designed to test Jesus' knowledge—they knew the answer they were looking for and so did Jesus—no, this was game to see whether he was going to be invited into their group or left outside their group, by himself

How did Jesus respond to their question?

- He gave them the answer everybody expected to hear, but then what did he do? He asked his own question...
- He asked them a question that they either couldn't or wouldn't answer (we're not sure which)
 - He turned their game around on them and made them play his game...
 - And what happened? After this, everyone was afraid to ask him any more questions—Jesus beat them at their own game!
 - But notice, that in beating them, he remained outside their group—that was the price Jesus paid to win the game

So, now I want to ask you some questions, and you don't have to answer them, but just think about them...

- What games can we play that will invite others into our group, and what are the games we play that keep others outside our group?