

CASE DISMISSED WITH APOLOGIES FOR THE INCONVENIENCE

Jean is just off the phone talking with our attorney. He was just off the phone talking with a judge in Yakima via a “Telephonic Hearing.” *“Your case was dismissed by the Court with apologies for your inconvenience.”*

Those on this list who have been reading my “hippity hoppity” pre-Easter pages pretty much know the story which began during the period called Lent when Christians follow Jesus on his journey toward Jerusalem and crucifixion.

This Bible story need not be actual history to be an accurate biography of people (like Jesus) who live in a society ruled by “authorities.”

I am one who values regulations, order and rule of law...most of the time. I have made it a practice to stay on the right side of the law and out of the courts. (Jesus is even quoted as warning people to settle their differences without going to court, which was judged to be losing proposition).

My situation, which I won’t re-state now, was one which could have, should have, been settled with a phone call way back when I first called the Yakima Court to inquire about a case and fines and penalties that had accumulated for the last 2 and ½ years. The court clerk admitted that there was a clerical error which could not be corrected without a ruling by the Judge. I would have to appear in court as a defendant.

I called an attorney friend in Washington to help me through this.

You may remember how I wrote at the time how Jesus might have fared differently in Jerusalem if he’d had an attorney. Those trial scenes written up in the Gospels tell the truth about how authority systems often pass on responsibility “washing their hands” of any guilt while failing to provide justice.

Jesus didn’t play their game, so the story goes—to support the idea of some that the trial and execution of Jesus was God’s idea to pay for the sins of the world. I think that Pauline notion deserves thoughtful question to say the least. I doubt Jesus believed that.

Having an attorney who understood the game and its special language helped me avoid either a triumphal entry into Yakima around Easter time, or a humiliating appearance before the Court to plead my innocence to avoid “execution.” It was confusing, troubling and expensive.

I doubt that those who have never been caught up in the justice system can understand the emotional stress and helplessness. Jesus arrived at the other side of his death as vindicated, as innocent, as unjustly executed. Like many of his fellow countrymen in those years Jesus never heard a judge say: *“Case dismissed, with apologies for your inconvenience.”*

By coincidence, our attorney did my court hearing with the Yakima, Washington County Judge while standing in front of the Hall of Justice in Washington, DC!

— Art Morgan, April 18, 2013