

**PASTORAL DILEMMA**

***“And a woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’”***

**I put my hand on his shoulder and turned to the back of the chapel...**

***“See those doors...?”***

**I said: *“As pastor of my church I welcomed all who came...***

***“I didn’t know what political party they followed...***

***whether they were gay or lesbian...***

***whether they believed the bible literally or not...***

***whether they believed in God or were atheists...***

***“If they came in the Church doors...***

***I could not turn myself away from those whom Jesus welcomed...***

***I was their pastor.”***

**He listened to me soberly and said**

***“I hear you.”***

**I could have cited all the anecdotal gospel places**

**where Jesus welcomed, blessed, healed, forgave and loved**

**sick, mentally isolated, unbelievers, tax collectors, partiers**

**adulterers, untouchables, and outsiders...**

**even a Samaritan woman.**

**Churches tend toward partisanship...welcoming their “base”...**

**sometimes ridiculing, rejecting and dismissing those who differ...**

***“bible believing” from other bible believers...***

**fundamentalists from liberals...**

**whites from non-whites...**

***Survivalism* is the abiding principle of many congregations...**

**the *pastoral Dilemma* is whether to serve only a supportive base**

**or to serve without regard to support or agreement.**

**Our local Corvallis Rabbi pastors a widely diverse Jewish community...**

**Orthodox, Conservative and Reform...sometimes militant opposites...**

**yet they thrive locally as a Jewish Community.**

**Orthodox read the Torah strictly and literally...that’s OK...**

**Conservatives read the Torah historically and critically...that’s OK too...**

**Reform respect the Torah and even understanding it mystically.**

**He is Rabbi to all...respecting the different understandings.**

**at year’s end the diverse community**

**literally dances around the Torah together.**

**I believe some jobs call us to serve more than ourselves...**

**and to serve more than our supportive base...**

**a Dilemma faced by Pastors and Presidents alike.**

*...Art Morgan, July 10, 2020*