

1 Samuel 8

'Old Testament Kingship'

Prayer ...

There is a really important insight into God's nature and the way that God responds when humans get it wrong.

In today's reading from **1 Samuel** the people of Israel wanted a king and wanted one there and then. The text states that they wanted a king to govern them *like other nations ...* and this, we're told *displeased* Samuel, God's agent. After all, God had called them out from the other nations ... and in God's eyes – this was a rejection of him.

Then – did you notice – God gives them a chance to change their minds ... pointing out the consequences ... which did indeed occur with most of the kings who followed ... but the people insisted.

And even though they are going directly against God, God does not abandon them. God has given them freewill ... and here we see that God still seeks to influence us for good within that gift of freewill ... yet if we ignore that influence, God does not give up on us.

And this – thank God – remains the case, and it remains the case at international, national, local, church and individual levels.

We can see glimpses of this in our Covid situation – those arguing for a fair sharing out of the vaccine globally are a sign of God not giving up on our selfishness.

And in our own lives, we may have taken – we may take in the future wrong decisions – but that's never the end of the story with God.

As our Gospel passage reminds us ... we have a home, we have a family with Jesus ... if our basic desire is to belong to him and live and work with him – God the Trinity will always welcome us.