

Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22

Mark 2: 1-12

From the beginning God gave humanity the freedom to choose to follow him, or not. But, without ever withdrawing his love and availability, he always warned of the consequences of the latter. In Samuel we hear of one such occasion of choice.

In today's Reading, Samuel is thrown into uncertainty by the people's request for a king. So, he turns to God for help. Samuel is a wise man. First, he listens and then he repeats what God has told him in answer to prayer. In doing so he warns the people of the consequences of having their own way. The people will not listen, and God tells him to allow them their free choice.

Today's psalm is a reminder of the king we are to follow, i.e. God. And of the reasons for doing so. "Happy the people who acclaim such a king."

In the Gospel the people are full of wonder at the words and miracles performed by Jesus. They are fuelled by the possibility that he may be the mighty king foretold by the prophets. Crowds surround him. In this instance, a paralytic man is lowered by his friends through the roof of the house on a stretcher! A great redeemer is indeed in their midst. But the scribes, are unimpressed when he forgives the paralytic his sins and accuse him of blasphemy. The reality is. that they do not understand the significance of his words, or indeed, his action of subsequently healing the man. Few, at the time, appreciate just 'how great' the Son of God is, or the type of king he is destined to be. So, the question is, 'Do we recognise God, in the Trinity, as King in 'our' lives and where do 'our' choices lie?'