

1 Samuel 24: 3-21

Mark 3: 13-19

The Reading today is a lengthy account of Saul's pursuit of David. It is an account of a King whose credentials have been deflated by a young man whose only ambition is to serve but who has won the applause of the king's subjects by killing the giant Goliath, champion warrior of the Philistines. Basically, Saul's jealousy blinds his judgement, and he seeks to kill David. So, taking some loyal soldiers with him, Saul runs away. Later, in his pursuit of David, Saul, unknowingly, happens to rest in the very same cave where David and his men are hiding, thus presenting David with the opportunity to kill him. Instead, David chooses only to cut off a piece of Saul's cloak. But afterwards David relents of the fact that he has 'raised his hand against his Lord' even in this way. So, he meets with Saul and explains, with regret and sadness, what he has done. Understanding what David could have done, Saul's anger is abated and indeed, he weeps saying, "You are a more upright man than I.....May the Lord reward you for the goodness you have shown me today."

Like David, Jesus needed others to support him in his life's mission. And he still does. So, he chooses the twelve Apostles. Twelve men who would go on to establish the Church. But, at the time they, like many since, were caught up in the vision of a messiah who would overpower all before him. Success and power were the name of the game. They sought his closeness for what they might get out of it, rather than for what they could give. Lack of understanding and jealousy brought cruel crucifixion and death to their leader but with it, for them and millions of others throughout the ages, a new way of living and the possibility of eternal life with him forever.