

April 30th, 2013



Dear Friends.

Wizard or Witch?

She left office more than 20 years ago, yet even in her death this month, our society was passionately divided about the merits of her leadership. Eulogies by both friend and foe brought attention to the mercurial divisive nature of political leadership.

During the funeral pageant, I was reminded of the opening scene in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar where Flavius & Marullus ask celebrating commoners why they were not at work. The cobbler when asked about his work impertinently replies that he was 'a mender of bad soles'. The inference being that leadership is not about the utility of service (soles) but the development of character (souls).

To highlight the point, our local counsellor in his bid for re-election this week assures me that he is the best person to fix the potholes in our roads! Better off we maybe, but nowhere is there a suggestion among politicians that they will help us become better people.

I am reminded of Samuel's counsel:

This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots...some he will assign to be commanders.... others to plough his ground ...others to make weapons of war ...your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.... he will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves.... When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

The narrator of the books of Samuel, illustrate through the folly of Kings and their becoming, that leadership that finds its legitimacy in response to ego, threats and the fears of mankind is bound to fail. Indeed the appointment of such leaders represents the absence of our trust in God.

David Runcorn in his study of Samuel, "fear and trust – God centred leadership" warns us from emulating heroic and warrior forms of leadership popularised in current literature. He demonstrates the fiasco's that happen when the likes of Saul, Jonathon and David proactively try to save the nation by their own endeavour. In contrast, Hannah and Samuel demonstrate the merits of trust, obedience and listening. With David, "*we are in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercies are great.*" 2 Sam 24:14

Thank you for your endeavour in leading people, not by might or power, but by the Spirit of God to become the people God intends them to be, and in helping them to hear God's still small voice.

Yours sincerely

Victor Pilmoor