

Thought for the day, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2020, from Peter Hemming.

[2 Samuel 15.1-12](#) / [Acts 9.19b-31](#)

## What does God want of me?

At the very beginning of lockdown, my daily bible reading included the line, (written in early 2019), that ‘...Church could be good theatre or good community – seldom both’. Theatre in worship is fine: but should we not rather become a stronger community?

I often seek the link is between those set for daily readings. What can we learn from the beginning of Absalom’s rebellion and the beginning of Saul’s new ministry?

God is always calling us to change. Sometimes *how* we change is *our*, rather than *God’s*, choice. At its most simplistic level perhaps, Absalom got it wrong, but Saul got it right. How can we be sure to get it right?

Absalom, possibly, thought he was doing the country a favour by offering himself as a real alternative focus for people to get justice and the rule of law settled. Maybe he thought he was doing David, the King, a favour too.

However, he’d not reckoned on David’s response, nor had he considered history. He’d forgotten, if he ever knew, [the deep respect that his father had for the previous ‘bad’ king](#). He’d forgotten that Kings were, at their best, appointed by God, and to be respected. Had he missed the relationship his father had with God?

Saul, on the other hand, had met Jesus on the road to [Damascus](#). He **had** thought he was doing the country a favour by persecuting these new believers (later to be known as Christians), saving the status quo in Judea with Roman authority supporting Jewish religion and rule. He **now** saw things differently. The Jesus that he’d seen as a ‘troublemaker’, really was now the ‘Risen Son of God’.

From the Acts reading we know that life got difficult for Saul very quickly. You’ll need to read the 2 Samuel 15 to the end to see what problems Absalom’s rebellion started! Short-term outcomes may not be a good guide to God’s long-term view of our actions.

Here’s a song

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=speak+o+lord+as+we+come+to+you+song&docid=608026584410492215&mid=5CDCA7ECED389E802E405CDCA7ECED389E802E40&view=detail&FORM=VIRE> to listen to while you listen to God speak about what church, community and other new beginnings, could become for everyone.