

Sermon Summary
14th after Pentecost
25th August 2013

- In this morning's gospel, Jesus heals a crippled woman in the synagogue on the Sabbath.
- He provokes his opponents by his apparent subversion of what they hold dear.
- Ironically, those who claim to most holy and pious seem to have become callous and inhumane.
- A few weeks ago, I started praying for leaders who 'would uphold the values of the Kingdom, and the needs of those least able to help themselves'
- As the political landscape, it appeared we were being offered a prospective choice between and Anglican or a Roman Catholic Prime Minister.
- As the election campaign goes on, I am increasingly unsure that, despite the professed identities of both candidates, either the values of the Kingdom or the needs of those least able to help themselves figure highly.
- I hear the squealing of pigs being slaughtered for pork barrel politics, but little or no sign of Kingdom values.
- Nowhere is anyone saying: this is what is right for us to do, and it will cost or hurt, and demand some sacrifice, but it is what is right in the long term for us as a nation. Nor, simply "this is the right thing to do".
- Jesus in the synagogue came face to face with empty piety, and challenged through his basic humanity.
- Yet, if we are concerned at the apparent dichotomy between our would-be leaders' claims and actions, we do well to remember the saying about beams and motes.
- We need to check our own behaviour and see that it tallies with the values of the Kingdom which we claim to hold.
- If not, their hypocrisy is no greater than ours, and the love of the God we claim to honour are compromised.

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