

Sermon Summary
6th after Pentecost
30th June 2013

- In Luke 9, Jesus and his disciples are turned away from a Samaritan village as they travel towards Jerusalem.
- James and John suggest a powerful act of retaliation, but are upbraided by Jesus. The party travels on, revenge put aside.
- Events in Canberra remind us all too acutely of the realities of a culture of revenge and fear of revenge.
- A number of cabinet ministers tell us that they have actually been having long discussions with family, loved ones etc and are leaving politics. The recent change of PM has, of course, nothing to do with their decisions. Ho-hum.
- The Bible deals with revenge.
- The OT “eye for an eye” which can seem so cruel, was actually one of the first mechanisms put in place by an ancient society to try and stop vendettas running on and on. Get even-but no more. Quite enlightened by its contemporary standards.
- Jesus takes matters further. This episode is his putting into practice the precepts found in the Sermon on the Mount about turning the other cheek.
- So this morning’s reading is appropriate for our current political climate, especially for those politicians in the ALP who claim a Christian allegiance.
- But it is also appropriate for us. We know where we should be on that trajectory through history which starts with wholesale vendetta, goes through the eye for an eye, and culminates in Jesus’ words and practice. We know that we should stand at the end of that journey, but often slip back- a bit like the stick of a rocket.
- So as well as pointing our political leaders to this, we should remind ourselves of it, too.

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