

The king was nervous and restless. He knew what the old sages had said, and his heart felt like a stone, heavy and weary. Men of old had predicted his future. There was no way out, he must go ahead or all his people would die; this is what he must do. He knew he would die, the odds were stacked against him. He had some popularity with the people, but human nature is fickle, and they would not be enough to save him. He knew the likely future: he would die a cruel death, a death without good reason, a callous killing. For he had made dangerous enemies.

His friends gathered around him, professing their loyalty, that they would fight for him and not allow him to die, for he would be the greatest King of all time, and they would assist him to run the new kingdom.

The King's heart sank. Had they learned nothing at all, after all that he had taught them? He spoke sharply, telling them that when they spoke such words they too were his enemies, undoing his work, undoing his intentions; that the time had come when those that fight to save their lives will lose them, but those who lose their lives for his sake would save them.

In prayer, he grew in the strength to face it; God would take him through. He knew he would die, but that death could not hold him; though he didn't know how any 'rising' would happen. He walked on with his friends, heavy but strengthened. (Mt 16: 21-28)

It is in our very nature that we rebel against God and go our own way. It is when our own might and power are let go that God can act.

How tempting it is to force our own way. It's in our very nature. Back in the rebellion of the '70s there was 'free love', loud songs, a movement of the younger generation to reject the stuffy ways of the older generation; all their hypocrisy of looking down on the young was to go. There was a longing for love, but loyalty and faithfulness became casualties, For, as the old song says, "I did it my way." The result was much suffering, disease and depression.

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:

Let your love be sincere, be devoted to loving and honouring others. Share with the Lord's people and practice hospitality.
Be zealous in spirituality.

Bless those that persecute you;
Rejoice with those that rejoice and mourn with those that mourn.
Live in harmony with one another, not being proud, but associating with those of low position, not being conceited.

As far as it depends on you, be at peace with everyone.
Take no revenge – leave room for God's anger; leave it to God.

It is our very human nature to go back to our old ways. In daily prayer, asking and listening, only with the Holy Spirit can one's weaknesses be conquered. It may help to write down what you think the Spirit is saying each day in a notebook, then later, to look back and see the pattern of what God seeks to change.

*I
did
it
My
Way*

Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,
says the Lord.

Letting go of our own might and power leads
to a receptive place where the Spirit of God
can reorder our chaos.

Listen to God's whisper –
it leads to new resurrection life.

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Your love is as wide as the oceans,
your faithfulness as high as the heavens.

Enable us to let go of self,
so we may receive your love and faithfulness,
and be more fully your disciples. Amen

September in our churches:

6th: 9.00 am Communion at Grandborough

6th: 11.00 am Communion at Leamington Hastings

13th: 9.00 am Communion at Flecknoe

13th: 3.00 pm Harvest at Grandborough

20th: 4.00 pm Harvest at Leamington Hastings

27th: 11.00 am Harvest at Willoughby

27th: Harvest at Flecknoe, time to be decided.

Sunday Services

Television

- **Sunday Morning Live** is on BBC1 at 10.00 am and then is available at 10.40 am on BBC iPlayer. Sally Phillips and Sean Fletcher take a look at the week's talking points and explore the ethical and religious issues of the day.
- **Songs of Praise** is on BBC One at 1.15 pm and then is available on BBC iPlayer at 1.55 pm. Claire McCollum visits Trentham Gardens in Staffordshire, discovering how the estate has been a place of Christian worship since the 7th century due to an ancient pilgrimage route.

Radio

- **BBC Radio 2** is broadcasting Good Morning Sunday at 6.00 am. The Rev Kate Bottley is joined by writer and journalist Cole Moreton to chat about love, loss and lighthouses.
- **BBC Radio 4** is broadcasting Sunday Worship at 8.10 am. A service led by Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, chair of the Wales synod of the Methodist church, reflecting on what happens when plans change. The readings are from Psalm 67, Isaiah 56 and Matthew 15, and the music includes New Every Morning Is the Love, And Can It Be and There's a Wideness in God's Mercy.
- **BBC Radio 3** is broadcasting Choral Evensong at 3.00 pm. Live from St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, with The Gesualdo Six.
- **Radio Plus** is broadcasting David Stone's faith show from 7.00 am to 11.00 am - at 10.00 am. You can listen at 101.5FM or on the [Radio Plus website](#)
- **Online service:**
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpA7IplNnXF-5NAPwSV8vAw>