

Thoughts on the Daily Word

15th Week of Year. Friday 17th July. Readings: Isaiah 38:1-6,21-22,7-8; Psalm: Isaiah 38:10-12,16; Matthew 12:1-8.

Hezekiah is held up as one of the few kings of Judah who are faithful to the God of the Covenant. The kings symbolise the nation as a whole. Leaders take on this responsibility. Even today we say that a nation gets the leader it deserves! Jesus is training the disciples in true leadership. This is not just a message for the apostles but for all disciples. It is always easy to point fingers at others, like the pharisees do, to Jesus and his disciples. When Jesus gives himself the title, 'son of man', he is describing himself as a fully human being but also identifying himself as part of a community of human beings. He goes onto tell the pharisees what that community is all about, mercy. Hezekiah is the instrument of liberation for his people by defying the cruel oppressors, the Assyrians. He is the instrument of mercy, used by God to set the people free. The disciples are learning from Jesus just how to be those instruments of mercy and just how to set people free from even religious rules that oppress rather than liberate.