

Give us a king to judge us

Homily, 15th January, 2016

1 Sam 8,4-7.10-22

father G. Papparone o.p.

It seems a contradiction: God allows the people to get away from Him, to sin...

Yet, if we think about, behind this God's attitude it hides a great pedagogy: the people want to be a nation like all others around them, they want a king.

We are at a time when Israel was not ruled as its neighbours by the monarchy, but by the judge. The judge is like the prophet, he represents God, and he is the one who shows the God's way to follow.

The people want to leave this mode because, as the text says, the sons of Samuel were "no saints"; the Israelites did not trust a lot in them and therefore they also doubt the possibility that through these intermediaries God can act in behalf of them. They seek, then, to conform to the mentality of the world, we might say.

And God, contrary to what Samuel expected, grant this request.

In what way this is God's pedagogy?

It has to do with the possibility to verify, to directly experience the negative effects of the free choices that have an impact on who does not rely on God's guidance.

The Lord often lets us free to do whatever we want; He cannot do otherwise...

We know that we are called to make our own choices in our lives and in these choices we can follow God and thus we experience His help and benefits, or in the other hand, we can choose to follow the mentality of this world, the habits and lifestyles that it offers.

The Lord leaves us to do, and in this way, our life becomes a negative, painful and suffering experience. Through this painful experience perhaps we can return to the Lord with a purer heart, with a stronger commitment; we may better know the difference between God and idols, we may sincerely change.

May evil we happen to live because of our wrong choices be for us an occasion of genuine conversion, a sincere return to God.

Praised be Jesus Christ.