Sermon: **Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve & to give his life as a ransom (**Matthew 20.28)

I’m in charge here – you have to do what I say. I am the presbyter! Does this sound like me? Maybe not, but there are presbyters, city mayors, prime ministers and presidents like that. Sometimes a new politician promises to remove corruption… Aung San Suu Kyi? But usually before long it looks like service as before.

**Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely.** (Lord Acton in 1887)

Most rulers rules by fear, with exceptions? Most rulers get used to the trappings and use of power.

Eg King Herod. He was fearful (2.3), devious (2.8), hot tempered (2.16a), brutal (2.16b). Had secret police.

He had killed 3 of his sons as threats to his throne, so the massacre Matthew records is in keeping, even if the only evidence is in Matthew. He feared a baby which was crazy, and worse that baby had no intention of taking his throne even as an adult 30 or so years later, long after he had died.

Unlike other kings

* Jesus did not rule over any ‘land’ as such, (**my kingdom does not belong to this world** John 18.36)
* Jesus did not impose his rules, (**come to me all you who are heavy-laden** Matthew 11.28o)
* Jesus had no pomp, no court or palace (**the S/M has nowhere to lay his head** Matthew 8.20),
* Jesus came to serve TEXT.

He did not look like a king (hence John 6.15 – **Jesus knew they were about to seize him and make him king, so we went off to the hills by himself**)

We are not only his subjects, but also witnesses to his style of reign, which is *God’s* way of ruling.

So easily we forget this – we sometimes presume that God hates certain sorts of people – adulterers, Muslims, homosexuals; once we have encountered such folk our opinions alter – so why do we think God’s do not? **If God is for us, who can be against us? (**Romans 8.31)

As we see the way God ‘rules’ us (ie as his witnesses) this must change how we view what ‘ruling’ should be.

This is the greatest gift God gives us, and is the one gift we are called to share with our world.

His way of rule is not fearful, devious, hot tempered or brutal like Herod’s, and is incorruptible. TEXT.