PUT NOT YOUR TRUST IN PRINCES

Posted on March 10, 2021 by Eddie

As human beings we have a deep seated desire to follow a leader, it's part of the way we are wired. But they always let us down.
Category: Observations

You might predict from the title that this post is going to have some reference to the shenanigans that are currently going on in the royal family and you'd be right. That being said, I've no desire to wade into the details of what's going on between Harry, Megan and the rest of their family. Enough uninformed words have already been written on that subject and I have no desire to add to them. What I'd like to do is to step back and to look at the broader picture. However, I should also say that while I pontificate about historical issues, the reality is that there are a lot of people in pain and family relationships have been strained beyond breaking point; this is a tragedy for the royals and we should not forget that.

I suppose that in order to be transparent, I should say that I am not a monarchist. Our current Queen has been an exemplary head of state, partly by remaining at a distance from controversy. Even as a non-monarchist, I rather admire her, but I don't see why her son should automatically get the job when she dies. There is more that could be said on this, but it will divert from my main point - which I will eventually get to. I should also say that while I pontificate about historical issues, the reality is that there are a lot of people in pain and family relationships have been strained beyond breaking point; this is a tragedy for the royals and we should not forget that.

As someone who is a keen reader of history, I am struck by how dysfunctional the British (and other) royal families have been through the ages. Power corrupts and in the past our monarchy had power a plenty. The eldest son and heir was in a uniquely privileged position, while younger siblings, cousins and other hangers-on scrabbled around for whatever power, influence and money they could grab. As often as not, the British court has been a nest of vipers.

The historical reality is a far cry from the carefully curated image of the contemporary royal family. The cynic in me says that to some extent this is because a constitutional monarchy has little by way of real power, so the urge to struggle for position and power is somewhat muted. However, what the current situation shows us is that there is still something of a toxic atmosphere in the court. Whether it is family members falling out or "palace officials" (those who are called courtiers in history books) struggling for position and influence, it all looks rather unpleasant.

And my point is? ...

Simply what the verse that I quoted in the title says. As human beings we have a deep seated desire to follow a leader, it's part of the way we are wired. Donald Trump and Queen Elizabeth are very different people, but the flag waving adulation that they receive from those who are devoted to them looks very much the same. The sneering British response to the make America great again

campaign just underlines that many Brits feel the same sense of superiority that they are complaining about in their American cousins. We are all prey to falling into the same trap.

The thing is, if we give our loyalty to human leaders; presidents, kings, queens or princes, they will always let us down. There are many lessons which can be drawn from the sad story of the royal family's current situation, but the big one is:

> *Do not put your trust in princes,*
> *in human beings, who cannot save.*
> *When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;*
> *on that very day their plans come to nothing.*
> *Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,*
> *whose hope is in the Lord their God.*
>
> *Psalm 146: 3-5*

One last thought, I think that this Twitter thread is an important reflection which covers some of the same ground.

https://twitter.com/cpx_tweet/status/1369157183229685763