

Over the past few years I have been lucky enough to spend every August at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, a place teeming with activity, where on every second corner a performer is showing their wares, a flyer is thrust into your hand detailing the next big hit and an acapella song troop are ringing out harmonies, tempting you to a ticket.

On one such heady stroll down the Royal Mile I found myself bamboozled into a queue for a show, men and women with strident voices were clamouring round to get in, and a frenzy of people hustled the ushers in order to get to the front.

I'd been dragged along by a friend who insisted this was the MUST SEE show of the year, but until I reached the beginning of the queue, she refused to tell me the title. As I looked up, I saw a giant poster, and on it was a woman, emblazoned in leopard print with the words written above her: What would Beyonce do?

Now for those of you who aren't aware of who Beyonce is, she is known in her full title as Queen B and is an RnB artist of prolific stature, whose lyrics about independence, inner strength and equality for women and people of colour, have seen her reign as one of the world's best-selling artists of all time. She speaks to the younger generation as a role model for how to live their lives, recently encouraging them to vote, to find their political voices and to be good members of society with her scholarship scheme.

Unfortunately for me, Beyonce did not actually feature in the aforementioned show; however, it was by a brilliant comedienne, who, struggling to come to terms with her husband leaving her, had begun to ask herself the question: What would Beyonce do? Using the responses from lyrics, from interviews and from album titles to mend her broken heart, she allowed herself to become subject to Beyonce, as Queen of her every decision.

And this stayed with me. Though, Beyonce is undoubtedly a secular Queen in the loosest possible sense of the word, this comedienne had allowed her life to be transformed by the example of another.

Pope Pius XI on instituting the feast of Christ the King in only 1925, is asking us to do exactly that, to allow, our thoughts, our decisions and our hearts in their entirety to be transformed by Christ. To live our lives, ruled by his example.

I wonder what would happen, if tomorrow, we all woke up, and with every single decision we made, with every thought or judgement that passed through our minds and with every opportunity to speak out that arose, we asked ourselves that simple yet challenging question: what would Christ do?

As we look at our world, where people are losing their homes, their livelihoods and their sense of human dignity to worldly powers, and the cries of the voiceless echo in our news, we need to ask ourselves as children of God, as a royal people, and heirs to God's kingdom: What would Christ do? And with a new and radical discipleship founded in Christ's peace, that we share every Sunday before the Eucharist, that question needs to burn in our hearts, with the same tenacity that the disciples felt on Easter Morning.

I believe, if every person did this, we would begin to see a glimpse of God's kingdom on earth, a kingdom of gentleness, of peace and of a justice founded in love: the kingdom Christ speaks of in our gospel today.

Ken Leech in his book *Prayer or Prophecy* talks about the kingdom of God saying, 'When Jesus says that his Kingdom is not of this world, he does not mean that it has nothing to do with this world, but that its origins and values originate elsewhere, that it stands over and against this world as a symbol of judgement upon it.' We hear again in Daniel's vision within our first reading how the Ancient One took his throne, 'the court sat in judgement and the books were open.'

And though these words of judgement and the apocalyptic end of days seem tough and uncomfortable to hear or even imagine, what we are actually given, through Christ, is an opportunity, the opportunity to try. To try to live better, to love deeper and to be kinder to our fellow man.

Pontius Pilate asks Jesus that very question: 'What have you done? Your own nation and the chief of priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?'

And what was it, what exactly was it that Jesus had done to deserve being brought to trial. He had healed the sick, he challenged society against the ways in which they were living their lives, he brought words of Peace and he embraced the outsider.

Christ wrenched open society in a way that changed the path of history, opening us up to God's loving word and revealing the path to salvation. He brought humanity into a relationship with God, welcoming us at the Eucharist and teaching us how to pray. When we say the Our Father every Sunday, it is because Christ showed us how.

But not only did he do all this, but with a love stronger than death, he took on the sufferings and injustices of the world and gave himself so that we might live.

So, when we ask ourselves, 'What would Christ do?', it is undoubtedly quite a tall feat. But if we live our lives for others, hold that question in our hearts and try, then truly can we dare to call him King.

Amen.