

52. *Prince and the Pauper*

In Mark Twain's story poor Tom swaps places with the Prince of Wales, his look alike liege. A poor boy gets to sit on the throne following the death of the king, and is almost crowned regent.

In the accounts of lives in the Bible not many characters come from palaces and families of noble lineage. Most are fashioned in circumstances not unlike those of yours and your students. The great dramas of God's narrative are played out by protagonists like Tom. You are of royal stock, one of the Tribe of Judah, a prince/princess of the Kingdom of God. You are a priest, one who is familiar with the supernatural and the ways of YHWH. Jesus, Prince of Peace, was not recognised by all His subjects on earth, nor are you and your pupils accorded your regal status. But in heaven this will change. You are on a journey. Your quest is to live well and to transform the world about you. You were designed to be a royal transformer; you are fully equipped for this commission. Who you are is not defended by your postcode, the status of your village or the size of your bank account? Jesus was ridiculed because his village was remote and of low status. You and your students are on a journey to the throne room of the cosmos. Like David and Esther, you can find yourself moved from the periphery of empire to the throne room as you go about your daily responsibilities faithfully. The fairy tales, as CS Lewis wrote, are faint echoes of the real metanarrative. God chooses people like you to affect the direction of nations and to be the hinge on which history swings.



*But you are a chosen people, the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **1Peter 2:9***

*"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. **John 1:46***

*So let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. **Hebrews 4:16***

*To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare with my Father on his throne. **Revelation 3:21***