



Daily Reflections

August 5, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 14: 1-12

Herod the tetrarch heard of the reputation of Jesus and said to his servants, "This man is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Now Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, for John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Although he wanted to kill him, he feared the people, for they regarded him as a prophet. But at a birthday celebration for Herod, the daughter of Herodias performed a dance before the guests and delighted Herod so much that he swore to give her whatever she might ask for. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests who were present, he ordered that it be given, and he had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. His disciples came and took away the corpse and buried him; and they went and told Jesus.

Our Scripture Reflection

The word "martyr" comes from a Greek word which means "witness." John the Baptist had been a witness to the Truth and that would cost him his life. Herod represented the lie and the sinful vices of greed, lust, envy and jealousy. In this life, we encounter situations whereby we must make a choice, for or against the Truth. May you always choose well.

Food for your Journey

Between a tyrant and a martyr there is of course an enormous difference, although they both have one thing in common: the power to compel. The tyrant, himself ambitious to dominate, compels people through his power; the martyr, himself unconditionally obedient to God, compels others through his suffering. The tyrant dies and his rule is over, the martyr dies and his rule begins.

--Søren Kierkegaard, *The Soul of Kierkegaard: Selections from His Journals* (Courier Corporation, 2012), 151.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Where has the Truth gone? So many times I see people who spout opinions and call it Truth. Give me courage, Lord, to always witness to Your Truth, even when it costs me to do so. Amen.