

Sirach 47: 2-11

Mark 6: 14-29

Today we have, what is, in essence, a eulogy to king David. No mention of the death of Uriah, His disobeying God, or the resulting death of his son, Absalom, or any mention of the times that he sinned against his God. Only words of affirmation: His love and praise of that same God who gave him the strength and wisdom to reign as king for forty years. A God whose forgiveness he sought and found before his death. A life well remembered. “The Lord took away his sins and exalted his horn forever; he gave him a royal covenant, and a glorious throne in Israel.”

Not so King Herod. A king who lacked integrity. He craved the acceptance of others and refused to take notice when warned by God through John the Baptist about his evil ways. A king who, in a blind moment of drunken excitement, made a promise that he could and would not rescind, so taking the life of a man that he ‘Greatly respected!’ No recognition of fault or desire to repent. What sort of eulogy might he have received?

Our lives are to be lived in such a way that they lead to an eternal reward. The journey is littered with faults and failings. But our God is great and full of love and compassion. May we do our best to follow the ‘Right’ road and, when we fail, repent, seek forgiveness, and enjoy the mercy of God’s healing love that is always there for us. What will our eulogy hold?