

Subject: Daily Prayer 1st August 2020
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Good morning

Let's rest and quietly calm ourselves before we begin on this lovely Saturday morning.....

Lord, we come to you trusting in your grace and goodness.
Though we are unworthy, you are ready to accept us and forgive us.
Your love is an everlasting love and is revealed in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
For this we give you thanks and praise.
In Jesus name. AMEN

Psalm 69:14-20

rescue me
from sinking in the mire;
let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.
Do not let the flood sweep over me,
or the deep swallow me up,
or the Pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.
Do not hide your face from your servant,
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.
Draw near to me, redeem me,
set me free because of my enemies.

You know the insults I receive,
and my shame and dishonour;
my foes are all known to you.
Insults have broken my heart,
so that I am in despair.
I looked for pity, but there was none;
and for comforters, but I found none.

Matthew 14:1-12

The Death of John the Baptist

At that time Herod the ruler heard reports about Jesus; and he said to his servants, 'This is John the Baptist; he has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' For Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because John had been telling him, 'It is not lawful for you to have her.' Though Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the

crowd, because they regarded him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company, and she pleased Herod so much that he promised on oath to grant her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, 'Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.' The king was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison. The head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who brought it to her mother. His disciples came and took the body and buried it; then they went and told Jesus.

Reflection

I have always found this to be such a tragic story.

That Herodias hated John the Baptist so much and that she could influence her daughter to obey her to even contemplate asking for HIS HEAD ON A PLATTER? This is so alien to me that I really cannot 'Get my head around it' But sadder still is Herod actually agreeing because he didn't want to upset his guests. Like WHAT???

But then.....How often have YOU done something unacceptable and un-Christian because....

Your reputation depended on it?

Maybe you had made a promise without thinking through the consequences first?

BUT rest assured, you are not alone, many people have done some terrible deed at some time but today our blessing is that if we truly repent, Jesus forgives us.

We are so blessed!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. AMEN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. AMEN

Blessings and love
Vicky