

FEBRUARY 4, 2022  
Friday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in OT  
Sirach 47: 2-11; Mark 6: 14-29

“SINNERS TO SAINTS.”

In our First Reading from Sirach, he praised King David for all his achievements and his good relationship with God. This is somehow the eulogy of Sirach to King David recalling the focal point of David’s life. In all his accomplishments, Sirach hailed David of his remarkable relationship to the people entrusted to him and to God whom he always adored and revered all his life. According to Sirach: “He was a person set apart. From his youth, he stood out ‘playing with lions as though with young goats and with bears as though with lambs of the flock.’ He was still a boy when he took on the Philistine giant, Goliath, and brought him down with one shot from his sling, thus relieving his people of their shame. Because of this he won the enthusiastic support of the people. ‘They gave him credit for ten thousand’, in contrast to Saul who, they said, only killed thousands. He was regularly victorious against their enemy, the Philistines and crushed their ‘horn’, that is, their power. At the same time, he constantly gave glory and praise to his Lord. David is famous in the Old Testament as a maker and performer of music. He created liturgies so that feasts could be celebrated with fitting splendour ‘causing the Lord’s holy name to be praised and the sanctuary to resound from dawn.’ The deeply sinful parts of his life are summed up in one short sentence: ‘The Lord forgave him his sins.’ And he was totally rehabilitated: ‘[The Lord] exalted his strength forever.’”<sup>1</sup>

When King David was strong, he praised God because for him, praise and glory belong to God not to him, and when he was weak and sinful, he bowed down and asked for forgiveness and God forgave him. All his life were given to God and not centered on him. We can learn from King David and with many saints like Saints Paul, Augustine,

---

<sup>1</sup> [livingspace.sacredspace.ie](http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie)

Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, how their sins turned to good in their own lives and God embraced them with love and forgiveness. They recognized that giving up their lives for God gave them eternal happiness.

King Herod was the contrast of King David wherein Herod became arrogant and boastful and focussed on what is earthly happiness. Herod's attitude led the death of a holy man St. John the Baptist, the sacrificial lamb for Herodias' selfishness and grudge. But in all these, St. John the Baptist stood for God even giving up his life for the truth.

My brothers and sisters, we are all sinners and we can only change through the help and grace of God. We can not change unless God is with us and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. We need to have a firm decision to change our way of life. So, let us approach the Lord in this Eucharist with humility asking for forgiveness for all our sins, help us to change our ways and remain with Him for ever. Let us pray that from being sinners we may become saints.