

September 25, 2025

Daily Reflections



ATTRACTION TO THE HOLY

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, "John has been raised from the dead"; others were saying, "Elijah has appeared"; still others, "One of the ancient prophets has arisen." But Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see him.

LUKE 9:7-9

Reflection

Last month, on August 29, the Memorial of the Passion and Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, I wrote a reflection based on Mark 6:17-29, "**The Oath of a Frightened King**." I considered how a weakened king gave in to his wife's demand for the immediate death of John the Baptist, which troubled Herod

because something about this holy man intrigued him, and he liked to listen to him preach.

Today's Gospel, according to Luke, begins with Herod becoming perplexed because he was hearing stories of someone teaching the about the Kingdom of God, curing diseases and sending disciples out to travel from place to place proclaiming the good news. Some people were saying that John the Baptist had been raised from the dead. Herod knew that he had beheaded John; he thought his act of violence had put an end to his troubles...yet he asked, *"Who is this about whom I hear such things?"* Who is this man Jesus, in homespun clothing, working with his ragtag group of peasant disciples, sending them to teach and heal the sick wherever they go? How does he have such power? Again, Herod was intrigued; he wanted to see Jesus.





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For Pondering

- What was it about John that attracted Herod to listen to his preaching, even though John was telling Herod he should not have taken his brother's wife?
- What was it about Jesus that intrigued Herod, the rich and powerful ruler?
- Maybe Herod was wondering: *Where did Jesus get all his wisdom? How does he have the power to heal the sick?*
- **And what about me?** Why am I attracted to Jesus Christ? Why do I want to listen to him? Do I really want to know him? Do I want to know him as Friend? As my Friend? What would it be like to walk beside him every day, sharing his dreams and hopes for the world? Is my attraction to Jesus drawing me to follow him and to labor with him in his mission to

heal our suffering world?

For Prayer

*Lord Jesus, You penetrate my heart!
Make its life flow out into Yourself.*

TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, SJ

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