

Friday 4th in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Mk 6,14-29): King Herod also heard about Jesus because his name had become well-known. Some people said, «John the Baptist has been raised from the dead and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him». Others thought, «He is Eli-jah», and others, «He is a prophet like the prophets of times past». When Herod was told of this, he thought: «I had John beheaded, yet he has risen from the dead!». For this is what had happened. Herod had ordered John to be arrested and had him bound and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. Herod had married her and John had told him, «It is not right for you to live with your brother's wife» (...).

The man is “the soul that is expressed in the body” and “body enlivened by an immortal spirit”

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the life of John the Baptist, a spokesperson for the truth about the marriage ends with the mixture of superstition (spiritual) and frivolous (body) of Herod. The correct relationship between man and woman is rooted in the essence of the human being: what is man? And this question leads to the question: who is God?

The “Bible” answers that man is created in the image of God, and God himself is love. Thus, man is like God as he loves. From this derives the indissoluble connection between spirit and body: man is “the soul that is expressed in the body” and “body enlivened by an immortal spirit.” That is, the body of man and woman has a “theological character.” Consequently, human sexuality is not an “extra”, it belongs to “being someone”: it makes perfect sense as an expression of “personal being” rather than a “something” of the person.

—In this “man as a whole” the freedom of “yes” must mean “forever”.