"KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS" – DURING THIS LENT
SEASON WE WANT TO SEE THE MANY CROWNS JESUS WORE
WEARS OR THE CROWNS THAT WERE ULTIMATELY CAST DO
BEFORE HIM. TODAY WE WANT TO LOOK AT KING HERO
TYRANT'S CROWN. PONTIUS PILATE TRIED TO "PASS THE BUC
BY SENDING JESUS TO HEROD & AVOID HAVING TO PASS FIN
SENTENCE HIMSELF. IT'S OUR HUMAN WAY OF AVOIDI
RESPONSIBILITY. IT'S CALLED THE TODDLERS CREED – *"IF I WA*
IT, IT'S MINE!" IT GOES ALL THE WAY BACK TO ADAM & EVE.
MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN A CROWN. *"IF I WANT IT, IT'S MIN*
HEROD THE GREAT – THIS KING HEROD'S GRANDFATHER – HER
THE GREAT WAS THE FIRST TYRANT JESUS CONFRONTED IN
INFANCY – THE MAN WHO ORDERED THE SLAUGHTER OF ALL T
BABIES IN BETHLEHEM TO PROTECT HIS OWN CROWN & SEE TH
NO OTHER "KING OF THE JEWS" WOULD USURP HIS AUTHORI
THAT HEROD ASO MURDERED HIS WIFE & MOST OF HIS CHILDR
FOR THE SAME REASON – TO KEEP ANYONE ELSE FROM EV
GETTING CLOSE TO UNSEATING HIM FROM THE THRONE. *"I*
WANT IT, IT'S MINE" == NO MATTER WHAT THE COST OR T
CONSEQUENCES.
BY THE WAY, THE "LAWYERS" WHOM WE MET IN TODAY'S GOSP
READING FIT THAT PATTERN TOO. THEY BECAME MASTERS
THE LAW TO GET CONTROL OVER OTHERS IN A WAY, TO PUT
CROWN ON THEIR OWN HEADS -- A TYRANT'S CROWN! TH
USED GOD'S LAW TO GET WHAT THEY WANTED -- *"IF I WANT*
T'S MINE!"..... WHEN THAT HAPPENS -- & IT HAPPENS A LOT IN
LOT OF AREAS – THE REAL WORD OF GOD GOES UNHEARD.
CONSCIOUS EFFORT MAY ACTUALLY BE MADE TO STILL T
WORD OF GOD.
I am the VOICE of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"
FOR THIS SERVICE THAT VOICE MOST OFTEN REPRESENTS T
VOICE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST. THE HEROD TO WHOM PILATE SE
JESUS IS REMEMBERED CHIEFLY FOR PUTTING TO DEATH JO
THE BAPTIST. NOW HE HAS JOHN'S COUSIN –JESUS –STANDI
BEFORE HIM -- & HE ASKS JESUS TO DO SOMETHING CLEVER
PERFORM A LITTLE MIRACLE..... "HA! JESUS, ARE YOU REALLY
CONTROL?" AS IT WAS IN BETHLEHEM THREE DECADES EARLIE
AS IT WAS WHEN THE HEAD OF JOHN WAS BROUGHT IN ON
PLATTER – AS IT IS NOW: *WHO WILL HAVE THE FINAL WOR*
HEROD TRIED TO STILL THE VOICE OF JOHN THE BABTIST
HAVING HIM BEHEADED, BUT DID THIS TYRANT SUCCEED?
You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy
repentance..... Even now the ax is laid at the root of the trees. Every tree that does not b

IS STILL BEING HEARD.

"Behead the Lamb of God…"

IN FACT, EVERY TIME CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE THE LORI SUPPER, JOHN'S WORDS ARE HEARD AGAIN & AGAIN & AGAIN …

"THE Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

BACK TO THE IRONY. HEROD TRIED TO SILENCE JOHN….& FAILI NOW HE TRIES TO MAKE JESUS SPEAK….. FAILS AGAIN. LET TI BE THE LESSON OF THE TYRANT'S CROWN: *THE WORD OF G CANNOT BE SILENCED …. OR CONTROLLED!* IT IS THE WORD GOD! WHEN JOHN'S VOICE WAS FIRST HEARD, PEOPLE CAME O FROM JERUSALEM TO CONFRONT HIM AT THE JORDAN. IT WAS HIS TERMS THAT THE CONFRONTATION TOOK PLACE, NOT THEI HE DID NOT GO TO THE TEMPLE TO CONFRONT THEM ON THE TURF WHERE THEY MIGHT THINK THEY HAD THE FINAL WORD BUT THEY CAME OUT TO HIM – HIS TURF – WHERE HE W SPEAKING AT THE JORDAN

"What did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

T WAS JESUS WHO POSED THAT QUESTION. PERHAPS THAT W JESUS' WAY OF POINTING OUT THEIR ERROR. "WHAT DID YOU OUT TO SEE?" SHOULD THEY RATHER HAVE GONE OUT TO H E A

"A reed shaken in the wind? Or someone dressed in fine clothing?"

APPARENTLY THAT IS ALL HEROD SAW IN JOHN – A REED TH COULD BE CHOPPED DOWN & HOPEFULLY WOULD NOT BE MISSE AND JESUS? -- SOMEONE TO DRESS UP[IN FINE CLOTHING – THAT EXACTLY WHAT HEROD DI D -- MOCKINGLY DRESS JESUS UP -- SEND HIM BACK TO PILATE.

No, I tell you – a PROPHET. And more then a prophet. This is the one of whom it is writt Behold, I send my messenger before my face, to prepare the way before me.'"

THIS IS THE ONE WHOM HEROD PUT TO DEATH – BUT WHO VOICE HE WAS UNABLE TO SILENCE -- & THAT'S THE POINT!

THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT BOUND."

EVEN WHEN JESUS IS! HIS SILENCE BEFORE HEROD IS ELOQUENT EVEN AS HIS SILENCE BEFORE PILATE SPEAKS VOLUMES. OU MORE MODERN HISTORY IS FILLED WITH EXAMPLES OF PEOPI WHO HAVE BEEN PUT TO DEATH BY TYRANTS OF ONE KIND O ANOTHER – FOLKS LIKE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

I HAVE A DREAM!"

OHN F. KENNEDY:

Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

BRAHAM LINCOLN:

WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE & CHARITY TO ALL…."

IETRICH BONHOEFFER, EXECUTED IN ONE OF HITLER CONCENTRATION CAMPS, CONTINUES TO INSPIRE CHRISTIA VERYWHERE AS DO THE WORDS OF GOD'S ANCIENT PROPHETS POSTLES. EVEN BY BITTER DEATH THEIR WORDS HAVE NO