

“Actions have consequences.”

In reading today’s Scriptures, that is what struck me.

People have all sorts of ways of dealing with consequences - they can accept them, they can ignore them, they can try to shift them onto someone else, they can even run away from them.

But in the end, what we do - our actions ... always have consequences.

In the First Reading, we hear a sort of eulogy for King David. We’ve heard over the past couple of weeks of David’s sins ... sins of the flesh ... sins of the heart. And one thing that is important to realize is that when David realized his sins, he humbly confessed them ... and continued to try his best. That is why in the reading from Sirach, we hear,

*The LORD forgave him his sins*

– a single line, near the end nearly three dozen lines of praise.

The difference, they say, between a sinner and a saint is that the saint always sought forgiveness for his sins and kept on striving for holiness.

In the Gospel we hear of King Herod. Who tried to hide from John the Baptist’s accusations - which were true - that he was married to his sister-in-law. Herod first tried to stifle John’s accusations by putting him in prison. But then his pride gets the better of him, and his wife ... or ... sister-in-law ... or whatever she is ... corners him into killing John the Baptist for entertainment.

We all have the choice. Sinner or saint. It all depends on where we go after we fall down ... after we sin. If we get back up, seek forgiveness, and try our best ... that’s all God asks.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for the humility to accept our limitations, and turn to God seeking His Grace and His Mercy so that we might persevere each day ... in virtue and in holiness.