



“We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.” – Luke 7:32



The Mind of a Martyr





Reality of Martyrdom

- “**If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, **but I chose you out of the world,** therefore **the world hates you.** Remember the word that I said to you, A servant is not greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.**” (John 15:18-20 18)
- “**For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**” (Matthew 16:24-25)

What is Martyrdom?

1. Shedding of Blood
2. The Seed of Faith
 - *"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."* (Tertullian)
 - EX: St. Paul
 - EX: The Philippian Jailer
3. The Fruit of Love
4. Martyrs loved Christ more than their own lives.
 - "Others were tortured, **not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.**" (Hebrews 11:35).
 - *"Allow me to be eaten by the beasts, through whom I can attain to God. I am God's wheat, and I am ground by the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found pure bread of Christ."* (St. Ignatius of Antioch)





What is Martyrdom?

5. Declaration of One's Love for Christ
 - ***“Eighty-six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?”*** (St. Polycarp)
 - “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, **and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.**” (Luke 14:26)



Why Does God Allow Martyrdom?

1. To fulfill the desire of a believer inflamed with love for God
2. To demonstrate that faith and freedom in Christ cannot be defeated by threats or violence.
 - EX: Three Holy Youth
 - “...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” (Daniel 3:17-18)
3. Strengthen the Church through their witness



How to Develop the Mind of a Martyr

- Live your faith courageously
 - Martyrs were fearless, standing before kings and rulers to witness for Christ and rebuke them.
 - Practice your faith with pride and courage
- Die Daily
 - "I die daily." (1 Corinthians 15:31).
 - "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)
- Train yourself in small sacrifices



How to Develop the Mind of a Martyr

- Love Christ Above All
 - Christ should be more precious than anything else in your life.
 - **"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ..."** (Philippians 3:8)
- Love everyone, even those who persecute the Church
 - EX: Arianus, Governor of Ansena
- Live with Eternal Perspective
 - **"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."** (Philippians 1:21).



Final Thoughts

“A time is coming when men will go mad, and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him, saying, ‘You are mad, you are not like us.’”

(St. Anthony the Great)



Final Thoughts

“For **we who are in this tent groan**, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident, knowing that **while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord**. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, **well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord**. 9 Therefore we make it our aim, **whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.**”
(2 Corinthians 5:4-9)