Matters of the Heart

Orthodox reflections on faith and life

50 Violence for the Kingdom

Concerning the calibre of John the Baptist, our Lord testifies that it is to such that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs. Eternal life is granted to those who, like John, renounce what the world has on offer, separating themselves from its pleasures and lustful desires. The Kingdom belongs to those who fast and pray, and lead a life of simplicity. It is a befitting Home to those who strive for virtue, who labour to keep their hearts pure and their actions fruitful. The Kingdom is open to those who, like the Forerunner, pursue the Lord in the stillness of the desert over the vanity in the hustle of the city streets.

Most of all, the Lord's Kingdom belongs to those who persevere violently and persist rigorously, those who fight to enter its gates and those who seize it by force. Let us diligently endure for that which is everlasting and seek God's grace in order that we may enter our heavenly dwelling.

"…the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

Matthew 11:12

See Also:

1 John 2:15-17

Lord grant me the wisdom to seek above all else Your Kingdom, and the grace to endure for Your eternal promises.