

Year A - Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?



John was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing.
So John sent some of his followers to ask Jesus,
"Are you the one we should be looking for? Or must we wait for someone else?"

Jesus answered, "Go and tell John what you have heard and seen.
The blind are now able to see, and the lame can walk.
People with leprosy are being healed, and the deaf can hear.
The dead are raised to life, and the poor are hearing the good news.
God will bless everyone who does not reject me because of what I do."

As John's followers were going away, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John:
"What sort of person did you go out into the desert to see? Was he like tall grass blown about by the wind? What kind of man did you go out to see? Was he someone dressed in fine clothes? People who dress like that live in the king's palace. What did you really go out to see? Was he a prophet? He certainly was. I tell you that he was more than a prophet.

In the Scriptures God says about him, 'I am sending my messenger ahead of you to get things ready for you.'

"I tell you that no one ever born on this earth
is greater than John the Baptist.
But whoever is least in the kingdom
of heaven is greater than John.'



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A Joyful Day!



Introduction Each week during Advent, we light a new candle on our Advent wreath. This week we light the pink candle and this one has a special meaning -joy!

Message

- What is joy? Is it different from just being happy? Joy is a very strong emotion and can't easily be shaken.
- Every day is filled with moments that make us happy and sad. Who has laughed today? Who has smiled? Who has felt sad today? Happiness and sadness can come and go but joy will still be there whatever we feel.
- Imagine how joyful the people from today's gospel would have felt. When they realised that the Lord who the prophets and John the Baptist had been telling them about for years and years was here! The Messiah who had been promised for hundreds of years was finally here and they got to be with them! They would have been full of joy!!
- There are lots of things about Christmas that we can be happy about - the presents, the food, time with family, the presents, the weather, **the presents!**
- These are great things that but greater than all of these is the fact that we know Jesus and we know how much he loves us. That can give us a joy that will be with us forever, no matter what happens.



Discussion Questions

- What brings you joy?
- How would you describe the difference between joy happiness?
- What are some things about this time of year ?