

3rd Sunday of Advent 2022 Gospel and Reflection

Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11

Bringing Good News to the poor

John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen – the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. And tell him, ‘God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.’ ”

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. “What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in

expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer to when they say,

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

And he will prepare your way before you.

“I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!”



Discussion Points

1. Who are today's prophets? How are they to be recognised?
2. Who has been a messenger in your life?
3. When have you been a messenger?
4. How would you define poverty? Who, to your mind, are the poor?
5. What do I really need to live a happy life? Would living simply help me in this?
6. Am I conscious of my needs? Am I able to voice these?
7. John was imprisoned for his beliefs. What commitments am I prepared to make in order to live simply?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, guide us as we seek to turn to you and be your messengers of the Good News in our daily lives.