

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

***“Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?”***

Q: Why did the Baptist send his urgent question from his prison cell to Jesus:

The question is an indicator that Jesus did not fit in the mould of his of the one who is to come.

Last week, we met John preparing the way for the one who is to come

- a) preaching fiery judgement,
- b) preaching and imminent wrath,
- c) he advocated **“one-to-come”** to baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire
- d) advocating **“one-to-come”** with the ***“winnowing fan is in his hand”***,
- e) ***one who will*** burn the chaff in an unquenchable fire.

But when Jesus begins preaching and doing his mighty works, none of these are being met.

- ❖ But instead Jesus is heard preached grace.
- ❖ Instead of punishing sinners, He is mingling with sinners – reaching out to them.
- ❖ Instead of ushering in a political kingdom, Jesus preached about a heavenly kingdom.

John, now imprisoned on account of preaching about he who was to come begins to wonder:

- Was I wrong?
- Is Jesus the one really?
- Or is there another to wait for?

#### JESUS’S RESPONSE

For his part Jesus does not respond with a simple “yes” or “no” answer. He responds by sending John’s disciples back to him with a report of what they have seen and heard.

- The blind see again
- The lame walk
- Lepers are cleansed
- The deaf hear and
- The dead are raised

Jesus simply reminds the one who baptised him that among other things these things are happening.

Jesus is saying, he has his own priorities.

Then Jesus concludes with an ominous beatitude that seems to be addressed to John directly:

❖ ***“happy the man who does not lose faith in me.”***

I’m not in this world to live up to your expectations.

#### CONCLUSION

This Advent Sunday we are being drawn to have a second look at our expectations of other people.

- Sometimes these expectations can be so lofty
- Q: Are we in anyway a burden on someone on account of our expectations?
- Q: Do we give room to respect their priorities?
- Q: Do we lay unrealistic or uninformed expectations on others?

#### OTHER POINTS OF CONSIDERATION

1. This celebration today is a good reminder for us to temper our expectation of others.
2. We would do well to let die any desire to control others through the expectations we might place on them.
3. We would well to refrain from having a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives

This Advent Sunday we are also being drawn to have a second look at our expectations of ourselves

- Sometimes these expectations can be beyond our ability

**Q: How do we manage our expectation of other and those of our own?**