

# ***Are you the One ?***

Matthew 11:2 ~ 11

+ DECEMBER 15, 2019

*" Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?.."*

Today's Readings are all about broken dreams and disappointments. It may seem inappropriate to talk such this close to Christmas. Our friend John the Baptist knew disappointment. He is in prison now and he's looking for a sign " a sign that the long-awaited Messiah has really arrived. That's ironic, don't you think? John the Baptist is the one who first proclaimed his coming. But much has happened to John since we last saw him preaching and baptizing people in the wilderness.

You'll remember John's message was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This message burned in John's soul. John wasn't afraid to proclaim his message to religious leaders and royalty alike. He wasn't even afraid to proclaim it to King Herod himself. That was why he was in jail.

There was one thing that John wanted to know before he died. John wanted to know beyond a shadow of a doubt if Jesus was really the Messiah. Can you blame him? He had given everything he had " including, in a matter of days, his very life. He wanted to know, has it all been in vain? Is it all an illusion - a dream? In the wilderness John had believed Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, but in the face of certain death, he has some doubts. So he sent some of his followers to find Jesus and ask him, "Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?"

John Was Disappointed, First of all, Because He Had different expectations of What a Messiah Would Do. John the Baptist expected the Messiah to come by storm, but nothing much seemed to be happening. It was not Jesus who was at fault, but John's expectations. That is the first reason he was gripped by disappointment.

The Second Reason John was disappointed was that he was looking for all the wrong signs.

The followers of John the Baptist caught up with Jesus. They asked Jesus John's question, "Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." The day of the Lord had arrived. There was evidence that God's Kingdom had begun. "Just look around," Jesus told John's followers, "to see what is happening."

But see, those aren't the kinds of signs that impress people. We want greatness written in big letters. That's not God's way. God chooses to work in the little insignificant places of life " like a manger, a carpenter's shop and a cross.

The third reason John was disappointed was that he didn't give God time. John wanted action now! But God takes his own sweet time. After all, He has been working on this world for hundreds of millions of years. But His purpose is just as sure and His plan is just as unstoppable.

We've all been there? God doesn't work according to our time schedule, but according to His. And sometimes He doesn't appear to be working at all. But He is. He is.

Certainly, he wasn't working according to John the Baptist's timetable. But he was working. The fact that we celebrate the life of John the Baptist two thousand years later is proof that he was working.

Bethlehem teaches us about expectations, about signs, and about patience. God begins with a simple child and humble surroundings and He works slowly, surely. But He is at work – in each of our lives and in the life of everybody belonging to you – He always has been and forever will be.