



Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Some things to think about...

Jesus tells his disciples that John the Baptist was preparing the way for him. John the Baptist was a humble leader who prepared the way by spreading God's word.

- What do you think makes a good leader?
- How do you show leadership as a Mini Vinnie?

Activity

As a group, brainstorm these questions:

- How can you prepare the way for others to help those in need? Can you promote the SVP and their works further?
- Can you lead by example for those who follow you, such as younger siblings and students at your school?

Teacher's Notes

In this Gospel reading, Jesus explains that John the Baptist was the prophet Isaiah spoke about, and that he is not just a prophet himself, but the one to prepare the way for the Lord. This is similar to the way both St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam lead the way for others.

Discuss how at times we are called upon to be leaders and not just followers. Ask the group how they think they can be leaders and who they consider to be their leaders. What qualities do good leaders need to show? Discuss the story of how the Society started:

- Frédéric (aged 19) was challenged by his friends to show how the Catholic Church was putting its faith into action.
- While he helped those in his community, others were inspired to join, and now through his leadership the Society of St Vincent de Paul has become a huge network of charity.