

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Matthew 11:2-11

'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

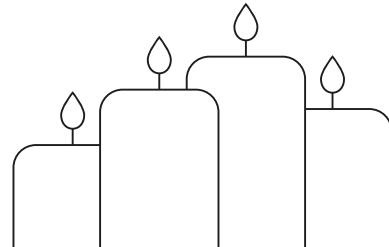
At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers 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.'



Reflection

John the Baptist wonders if Jesus is really the one and Jesus answers, not with words, but with actions that change lives: the blind see, the lame walk, and the poor receive good news. As Vincentians, that's our cue. St Vincent and Blessed Frédéric didn't prove God's love by talking about it they showed it. This week, let your actions be the answer. If someone asked, "Is Jesus real?", could they see it in the way you treat others?

Materials Needed

Strips of paper

Pens

Bowl/Basket

Activity

- Ask each participant to quietly think of one action they can do this week that will show Jesus' love to someone else, something visible and practical. It could be helping at home, inviting someone to join in at school, checking in on someone who's lonely, or choosing kindness online.
- Everyone writes their chosen action on a small piece of paper and folds it. This represents a private commitment- their way of letting others "see and hear" the good news.
- Collect the folded papers in a bowl or basket. You can read a few aloud (anonymously) to inspire everyone, or ask participants to share their intention with the person next to them.

Call to Action

This Advent, get practical: pick one thing you will actually do this week to bring Christ's love to someone - like baking for a neighbour, writing a note to someone who's struggling, helping a sibling with chores, or inviting someone who usually eats alone to join you. Let your action be a clear sign that you are making space for Jesus in the world.