

TITLE AND NUMBER: 110. An important question



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Matthew 11:2-5

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Isaiah 61:1-4, Luke 4:16-21, Mark 10:46-52

What does this Bible passage tell us?

John the Baptist had prepared the way for Jesus by preaching and calling the people to repent and come back to God. John had been arrested and put in prison by Herod. John sent messengers to Jesus to ask whether Jesus really was the Messiah, God's anointed one.

Jesus answered his question in a very interesting way by quoting from the book of Isaiah, which was written 600 years before His birth. John would have known the Old Testament scriptures very well. Jesus had fulfilled the ancient prophecies of Isaiah by His words and actions. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. John the Baptist's messengers went back and reassured John who remained in prison. Sadly, John was eventually killed by Herod.

Imagine being one of the messengers, seeing with your own eyes Jesus healing people from all kinds of diseases and listening as He brings Good News - how amazing!

Being convinced of who Jesus is does not depend on words alone, but also on the results of having Him in our lives.

Reflections:

- John sent messengers to find out whether Jesus was the Messiah. The messengers brought John reassurance. See if you can help someone and bring them reassurance this week.
- St Ignatius was a priest who founded the Jesuits in the 16th century. They are a religious order following the teachings of Jesus. The Ignatian way of praying is to use our imagination to bring a Bible passage to life. To do this, spend ten minutes building the scene in your imagination. What can you see, hear, smell? What is Jesus doing and saying? What would you like to say to Jesus? Note your insights down on this worksheet. Try this today using either this passage or the reading from Mark 10:46-52 where Jesus gives sight to Bartimaeus.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

