

Mosaic Teaching Guide

For Individual Reflection and Face to Face Groups

The Third Sunday of Advent 2010

Isaiah 35.5-10

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Matthew 11.1-6

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, '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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.'

Questions for Everyone: Are you easily offended? On a scale of 1-10, 1 being my skin is paper thin and I often get my feelings hurt to 10 my skin is very thick and you have to work really hard to offend me, where are you on this "offense" scale? Are you finished with your Christmas shopping? Do you think of yourself as a good gift buyer?

John in Jail

"As John sit's in Herod's jail his faith begins to waver. Jesus' messianic activities have caused John to doubt everything he experienced at Jesus' baptism." Do you experience doubt about your faith? How does this doubt manifest itself?

John's Question

“John gives voice to his doubts. ‘Are you the one?’ John speaks for all those who placed their faith in Jesus only to have doubts creep in somewhere along the way.” What are some of the challenges to nurturing a vibrant faith over many years?

Dark Night of the Soul

“It’s as if the God of Jesus is so committed to a relationship with us that he won’t allow us to construct an idol of our experience of God. And thus God makes God’s Self known only through God’s absence.” How do you respond to this statement? Why is it important that our experience of God not become our God? Do you think this has ever happened to you?

Unmet Expectations

“It would be easy to place our faith in Jesus if he were to ride into town in a dramatic display of strength and power. . . . The story of Jesus is ultimately the story of God who, with all the resources of the cosmos at his disposal, chose to die on the cross rather than climb up to the pinnacle and sit on a throne of coercive power.” If this is true, what are some of the implications for the way we live our lives? Are you ever tempted to misuse your power?

Jesus' Answer

“We know that Jesus sees his messianic mission in Isaiah 35 because he quotes a portion of it in his reply to John.” Reflecting on Jesus’ reply to John and the Isaiah passage, what can one learn about Jesus’ mission on earth? How might this shape the way we live?

The Scandal of the Christian Faith

“Blessed is anyone who will not get tripped up by their unmet expectations of me. . . . Blessed are those who aren’t scandalized by a God who dies to heal the world. . . . The truth is people are generally offended by Christianity for the wrong reasons.” Have you ever offended someone? Have you ever caused offense because of your faith?

Your Questions

“So what are your questions? . . . Faith is living what you believe even when all your questions aren’t answered.” If you could ask God anything, face to face, what would your first question be?