

THE PROMISED ONE

Thursday, December 11

Reading: Matthew 11:2-6

Matthew 11:4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: **5** 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. **6** Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of Me."

*The blind will see / The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap / The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb*

This bridge to 'Mary, Did You Know' reminds me of an event that happened early in the ministry of Jesus. John the Baptist had clearly proclaimed that Jesus was "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). He believed with all his heart that Jesus was the Messiah for whom he had come to prepare the way. But now, as he languished in a King Herod Antipas' dungeon, John began to have some doubts. Jesus was not meeting his expectations for what the Messiah would do and so he sent some disciples to find out what was going on.

Jesus' response was clear. He was indeed the Messiah because He was doing all the things the Old Testament Scriptures said the Messiah would do!

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me
to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor (Isaiah 61:1-2)

The evidence that expels all doubt that Jesus is the promised Savior is that He did exactly what the prophecies said He would do. This seems to be all the proof that John needed. The next time we see him, he is courageous in his stand for the truth and will be martyred for it.

Like John, we can all have doubts. Notice that Jesus does not condemn John for his doubts. He actually encouraged him and praised him for his faith (Matthew 11:7-15). Jesus said, "Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of Me." The word "stumble" means to be trapped. Jesus is telling us not to fall into the trap of false expectations. God's blessings come to those who believe who He is and what He is doing. We must remember that Jesus does not always act in ways we expect or even want. But He is always working! Faith is trusting even when we don't understand or see what God is doing.

When we have questions, don't let them hurt your faith and spiritual growth. Take your concerns to Jesus! He does not reprimand you for sincere questions. He wants to comfort and assure you. Meditate on His Word and focus on who He is and what He has done. Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).