

Shall We Look for Another?
Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11
Third Sunday in Advent
December 16, 2007

Even the greatest of Christians can wrestle with the sin of doubt. Imprisoned and soon to be executed by Herod, John the Baptist had a moment of despair not unlike his prophetic forefather Elijah. “Are you the Messiah, or shall we look for another?” he asked Jesus via his emissaries. Jesus’ answer speaks to all whose “hands hang down,” who face the challenge of overwhelming trials that call faith itself into question. “Blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over me.”

- Job: “I know my Redeemer liveth...” - not exactly his wife’s response!
- The need to cultivate the waiting heart (James 5:7-10)
- What does “great faith” look like?

“Shall we look for another?”

I. No! The Messiah has Come – Isaiah 35:1-4

- A. It is God who comes to us – Immanuel.
- B. It is God alone who can strengthen the exhausted and languishing.

II. No! The Messiah is the Way – Isaiah 35:5-10

- A. Jesus, the End of Exile, Author of New Creation
 - 1. From God
 - 2. From the Land
- B. Jesus, Healer of Idolatry’s Curse
 - Psalm 115 – “Those who make them shall be like them.”
- C. Jesus, the Way to the Father (John 14:6)
 - Holiness along the way
 - The diligent pursuit of holiness is not the greatest trouble plaguing the Church today.

III. No! The Messiah is our Life – Isaiah 35:10

- Waiting – ICUs and Airports
 - They waited, and now we do as well.
- “Do you want to go also?” – John 6
 - The scandal of Christ
 - Will you embrace him?
- ... which means we look for no other Savior, no other God, no other deliverance, and preach no other Gospel.