

Marinating In God's Word

Matthew 11:2-15

The Third Sunday of Advent has arrived, and we are met with a passage that invites us to assess our doubts and fears of who Jesus really is. As we study this passage let's have the courage to bring our fears and doubts to the manger this Advent.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

1. As John the Baptist asks this question, "Are you the one who is to come?" we are met with the doubts and fears of a man who Jesus will later say is the greatest born of women up to that point. If John has doubts and fears, it would only make sense that we ourselves have our doubts. As the pressures of the season mount, what are some of the doubts you have lingering about who Jesus is or what aspects of your life He can enter into?
2. Based on our text from last week (Mt. 3:1-12), why do you think John may be having these doubts? Jesus essentially answers John by referencing multiple passages in Isaiah. (If you have a study Bible, see if you can find some of these passages.) What do you think Jesus was trying to show John? Is there a Biblical principle that you can see from this response in regard to doubts?
3. What do you think Jesus means when he says in reference to John, "yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he?"
4. One of the great challenges of this text is the realization that we will always have to encounter Jesus to some degree through faith. All the answers can be standing before us, and yet we will still need something more than answers, we will need faith. How does Advent invite us to recommit or reconsider our faith in Jesus as the Son of God, the Good News, the true source of Joy to the World?