

FR.TK REFLECTIONS 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2022.

ARE YOU THE ONE EXPECTED?.

This was an extremely pregnant statement from John the Baptist,
Was he doubting the person of Christ?
Was he asking for the sake of himself?
Was he asking for the sake of his followers now that he was in prison?
In a situation like John being in the prison, it is obvious that it was important to get clarification as a human person who had worked so tirelessly in the preparation of the coming of the savior, the Messiah .

In our first reading, the prophet Isaiah was ministering to people who were desperate in **exile, all their hopes and expectations were already shattered** they didn't have any hope in captivity. They needed **encouragement, hope and assurance that they may persevere.** In the person of this great prophet they got all that and were assured of **restoration and returning home.** They got what they desperately needed the support. He is calling the people to have **strength, rejoice, be glad and have courage and not to fear, the ransomed of Yahweh will return** (Isa.35:1-10). What an encouragement to a desperate people, Don't we all need an Isaiah in our times especially when we are **desperate, discouraged, and despaired** in life situations? Definitely our God will be there for us if we have **trust and confidence in him.** He will rescue us from in all difficult situations that is the reason He sent his only son to **save and redeem us.**

The same message of encouragement is given to John in prison by Jesus in answer to his question, ***are you the one who is to come or should we expect someone else?(mt.11:3) go back and report to john what you see and hear. The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life and good news is reaching the poor.*** This described and fitted the messiah hence left no doubt about the **person of Jesus as the messiah.** This must have cleared out all the doubt of John and he must have been a happy man after

ushering in the messiah though he was in prison with an impending case of execution awaiting him after categorically criticizing the immoral life style behaviour of the king.

The message must have relieved John so much, **the mission for him was accomplished.** Surprisingly though John prepared for the way of the messiah, **he never saw the cross, he didn't live long enough to experience full range of Christ as a messiah with *love, compassion gentleness and forgiveness as witnessed on the cross, neither did he live long enough to experience the POWER OF RESURRECTION.***

Are we not so lucky to experience all these powerful manifestation of God love? John did his part so well that even Jesus acknowledged, **"Among those who are born by women none is greater than John yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than him"**(Mt.11:11)

The ball is on our hands this Advent it is our duty and responsibility to bring Christ and the gospel to the world not only this Advent but always, **HOW ARE WE PREPARING FOR CHRIST.**

COME LORD JESUS;