

Wednesday 3th of Advent

Gospel text (Lk 7,19-23): The disciples of John gave him all this news. So he called two of them and sent them to the Lord with this message, «Are you the one we are expecting, or should we wait for another?». These men came to Jesus and said, «John the Baptist sent us to ask you: ‘Are you the one we are to expect, or should we wait for another?’».

At that time Jesus healed many people of their sicknesses or diseases; He freed them from evil spirits and He gave sight to the blind. Then He answered the messengers, «Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the poor are given good news. Now, listen: Fortunate are those who encounter me, but not for their downfall».

«The blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are made clean...»

Fr. Bernat GIMENO i Capín
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Today, when we may realize we do not know what to expect of our life; when, at times, we lose our hopes and do not dare to look beyond our own shortcomings; when we are glad to be faithful to Jesus Christ and, at the same time, we are fretful or feeling low for not savoring the fruits of our apostolic mission, the Lord wants us to ask ourselves, as John the Baptist did: «Should we wait for another?» (Lk 7:20).

Sure enough, the Lord is “smart”, and He wants to take advantage of our uncertainty —otherwise, quite a normal one— so that we can completely examine our life, and detect our failings, our dark, our wickedness... thus, being able to strengthen our faith and “endlessly” multiply our expectations.

The Lord has no limits when it comes to accomplish his mission: «The blind see

again, the lame walk, lepers are made clean...» (Lk 7:22). Where are my hopes placed? Where is my joy resting? Because our hopes and our interior joy are intimately related. It goes without saying that Christians must, of course, live like any other normal person, but they must always keep their eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, that will never fail us. No Christian can live his life by ignoring Christ's life and his Gospel. Let us center our gaze upon him, Almighty, and let us set no limits to our hopes. «You will find in Him much more than you can ask for or desire» (St. John of the Cross).

Liturgy is not a “sacred game”, and our Church gives us this time of Advent because the Church wants each believer to revive in Christ the virtue of hope in his life. Quite often, we lose it because we tend to exceedingly entrust our own forces and do not wish to see ourselves as an “ailing child” in need of the Lord's healing hand. But this is how it must be, and since He knows us well and is fully aware we are all made from the same “material”, He offers us his helping hand. —Thanks, O Lord, for rescuing me out of the mud and fill up my heart with hope.