

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?» (...). 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».

Jesus of Nazareth: a recognizable historical figure from the faith

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we meet the disciples of the Baptist. With common sense, we understand that the Jesus of the Gospels is not an "invention", but the real Jesus Christ, strictly "historical". This figure is more logical and, from an historical point of view, also more understandable than the theoretical reconstructions which from Him some have tried to exclude faith in his divinity.

Yes, something extraordinary happened (Jesus Christ refers to the facts) which explains his crucifixion and effectiveness. Just twenty years after his death we found in the great hymn to Christ from the "Letter to the Philippians" (cf. 2:6-11) a fully developed Christology of Jesus: it asserts that Jesus was equal to God, but relinquished his rank, became man, humbled himself to death on the cross, and only Him should be honored by the cosmos, the worship that God had announced to the prophet Isaiah.

—Jesus, your greatness lies in your divine origin from which we understand with the facts and confess with faith.