

Faith First

Reflection for December 11

(Third Sunday of Advent)

In the Gospel reading for the third Sunday of Advent, the imprisoned John the Baptist sends this question to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" As is customary for Jesus, his response refers back to an Old Testament passage which is found in today's first reading. The prophet Isaiah states, "Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing."

Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and the answer to John the Baptist's question.

Miracles played a central role in Jesus' ministry. They were an extension of who he was. All too often, we view these miracles as in a far-away land or for a distant people. But they are also for us -- here and now. How about the birth of a child? The unconditional love of a parent? The perennial and perpetual cycle of nature around us? There are miracles everywhere.

Especially during Advent, we need to focus on the miracle which is Christmas. The love that God has shown to us through the gift of His son is the greatest miracle of all. May each of us desire to bring this miracle of his love to the world.

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