

Disappointment Over Unfulfilled Expectations

Promise: hoping with patient endurance will be richly rewarded

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-11; [Matthew 11:2-15](#)
(Third Sunday in Advent, 12/15/19)

Are you the one to come, or should we look for another. – v. 3

Lead In – Beloved in Christ, do we not often experience disappointment because of false or unfulfilled expectations? We hope God will act in a certain way, but when He does not, we are perplexed and begin to give in to despair. It would seem that John the Baptist and his disciples were experiencing just such a disappointment...

I. Expectations For the Coming One

- A. As JB indicated earlier, for judgment...
- B. As Isaiah indicated for the redemption of creation
- C. And yet, there are unmistakable signs...

II. Advent Reminds Us of Patient Endurance

- A. Ever notice how God's timetable differs from ours
- B. Typically God seems to move at snail's pace...

III. Two False Expectations Today

- A. We can enjoy our best life now...
- B. Why doesn't God rain down lightning...

Parting Shot – It is not for naught that Jesus said, "Blessed is the one who is not offended by me." Jesus knew that His upcoming death on the cross would be, in the words of St. Paul, a stumbling block to the Jews, and foolishness to the Greeks. So the preaching of Christ crucified continues to be an offense for many. But for those brought to faith by being joined to Jesus' death and resurrection in Baptism, we can await with patient endurance the hope beyond all imagining, even as we already sing of our salvation, even in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Therefore the redeemed of the Lord..."

Mt 3:10-12 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

Is 35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Is 35:5-6 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy...

2 Pt 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Ps 90:4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Matthew 11:2-15 ESV

Messengers from John the Baptist

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

2 Pt 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Rm 8:18-19 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Mt 13:29-30 But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

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