



Ask, Father James:

Recognizing the Messiah

Like many people today, and like John the Baptist and even the apostles of Jesus, the advent of the Messiah can be easily missed, and we fail to recognize Jesus in our midst – His Real Presence. John the Baptist, despite being His herald, almost failed to recognize the Messiah. John sends his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” As strange as this may sound, the question John was seeking answers to was how Jesus is the fulfilment of earlier prophecies. Jesus. Jesus’ response to the question shows the profundity of this passage. Jesus’ reply recalled for John the Baptist and for all, the passages from the prophet Isaiah concerning signs by which the Messiah is to be recognized (Isaiah 29:18-19; Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 61:1-3). Jesus replied: “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.” Jesus’ response leaves out the part of Isaiah 61 that refers to the prisoners being freed by the Messiah. When Jesus said: “Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me,” Jesus is saying: Blessed is the person who doesn't get tripped up or upset or confused by my ministry and my teachings. Jesus makes room for John in his doubt, to grow in faith. Jesus speaks to you and to me too, today.

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