

Promises in the Dark

Scripture Reading — Matthew 11:1-6

“Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Matthew 11:3 —

Times of intense waiting often take place at night. A mother stays awake, hoping to hear the sound of her teenage son or daughter coming home. Waiting to hear the results of tests from a doctor's office seems to intensify during the long, quiet hours of the night. When the world around us falls silent, we especially hear voices of doubt and fear murmuring inside us. Maybe this is what John the Baptist was experiencing in prison. In the dark stillness of his prison cell, he waited for his disciples to return with answers to his questions. In effect, he was asking, “Lord, if you really are the promised Messiah, why am I languishing here in prison? Where is the powerful kingdom that I believed you would bring?” In a way, we all wait for Jesus to answer these questions because we too live in a kingdom that is coming but is not yet here completely. Jesus assured John, as he assures us today, that there is enough evidence of his work in the world to confirm his identity. The beginnings of his ministry guarantee the kingdom's full arrival later on. So if we are waiting and listening for the Lord and beginning to grow disappointed, let's take heart: God has whispered the coming of a kingdom that will one day arrive with an unmistakable shout.

Prayer

Lord, sometimes it's hard to believe your kingdom has come when we go through difficult times. Help us to trust in you and to help others hear the good news of Jesus. Amen.

Devotion topics: [Christianity](#), [Discipleship](#), [Disciplines](#)

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