

*Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of Christ, he sent word to his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'* St Matthew 11:2-3.

Inevitably the uncompromising preaching of St John the Baptist, not least his condemnation of the ruling elite, lands him in trouble and he is imprisoned. While he is there uncertainty seems to have crept into his mind and the question with which he sends his disciples to Jesus 'shall we look for another' is the question of a searching people. God is revealing himself in Jesus but he seems unpredictable and mysterious. John wants confirmation that his hope has not been delusional and in the return message from Jesus that confirmation comes.

When we find ourselves asking why some trial has come our way or wondering what God's purpose could be in a trying situation, St John the Baptist is a good companion for us. We don't need to have all the answers to every challenge to faith. We simply have to do what he did and see the transforming difference that Jesus makes and faithfully point to him. There is no need to worry if we experience doubts in our lives. They can lead us to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is.