

Scripture: Matthew 11: 2-15
Title: Is Jesus the One?
Date: January 5, 2020

EPIPHANY

EPIPHANY OVERVIEW

Epiphany follows the 12 days of Christmas (technically Jan 6 !!) It is a part of the church calendar that focuses on the revelation of God through the incarnation of Jesus

VISION OVERVIEW

MCRC@YYC VISION

Last year the over arching theme of MCRC@YYC was Further Up – Further in

This year the over arching theme of MCRC@YYC will be Vision 2020

The goal of seeing God more clearly

The goal of seeing ourselves in light of God's revelation more clearly

The goal of serving others in light of God's calling more clearly

2020 VISION THROUGH QUESTIONS

In physical vision 2020 is the defined normal of eyesight for people

A place of revelation where one can see clearly

Life vision asks the questions

What is it we're called to be

What is it we're called to do

Oz Guinness – The Call

True seekers are driven to find answers that no longer fit their questions

Or perhaps – their questions no longer fit their answers

JOHN'S REQUEST TO JESUS

JOHN'S QUESTION

BACKSTORY

John the Baptist is connected with Jesus as his cousin who baptized him at the Jordan River recognizing the greatness of Jesus as the messiah

John the Baptist is connected with God as he left the trappings of the world to call people to repentance and baptism. As he called out in preparation for the Kingdom of God through the Messiah - the ONE who is coming

ARE YOU THE COMING ONE?

IS THERE ANOTHER ONE?

But now John the Baptist is imprisoned and the reports of Jesus in his ministry come to John. He's confused because he's expecting a triumphant kingdom that overthrows the Romans and rejecting the Pharisees and Sadducees. While Jesus is doing great signs of God but there's no change in society

So IS Jesus the one

The one predicted by so many of the prophets of old

The one even predicted by John himself in Matthew 3

The hope of Israel – for long many centuries – is it still within the Christ?

JESUS' REPLY TO JOHN

REVEALS HIMSELF

WHAT HE'S DONE

Jesus responding to the questions posed by the disciples of John puts forth a resume:

The blind can see, the lame can walk, those with leprosy are healed, the deaf can hear

and the dead are alive again

A bold reference to Isaiah 35 - all the mighty works the Messiah would do

WHAT HE'S SAID

Also referencing Isaiah 61 where Jesus speaks of telling good news to the poor.

Jesus reveals to the disciples of John - tell John – what you have heard AND what you have seen

RECOGNIZES JOHN

As such Jesus is recognizing and affirming John the Baptist

Even if John himself isn't getting it

The Kingdom that John was crying out in the desert about - as were the prophets before him -

was being fulfilled in and through Jesus

John therefore is no less than Elijah or any of the other previous prophets – indeed he could be

seen as greater for John the Baptist is the link of the old and the new

REBUKES ISRAEL

As the John misunderstands Jesus - so too the crowd misunderstood John

His role was to prepare the way for Jesus – even if even he misunderstood it himself

Their expectations aren't much different than John's (economic freedom - political freedom -

physical freedom - social freedom – spiritual freedom. But their response was the same as well – confusion and misunderstanding.

As such – following the text we read (vs. 20-24) – Jesus denounces the towns in which most of

his miracles had been performed. They had benefited from Jesus' presence with them

and they had seen the power and heard the truth of God through Jesus and YET it

hadn't changed their lives

Jesus was delivering these miracles and thus their expectations were met but they

misunderstood because Jesus wasn't content with just fulling those expectations -

because he knew there was a greater need for them – and us

