

Christ is Healing for the World 12/13/2020

Luke 7:18-28

3rd Sunday of Advent

“Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” (Luke 7:19-20)

1. John **prepared** the way for Christ (Luke 3:4-6)

- a. John rejoiced in the womb when he met Jesus (Lk. 1:41-44)
- b. John the Baptist said many things **praising** Jesus
 - Jesus was “more powerful” and more worthy than he (Luke 3:16)
 - Jesus was coming with cleansing and fiery judgment (Luke 3:17)
 - “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29 and 36)
 - “He must become greater; I must become less” (John 3:30)
 - After baptizing Jesus, called Him “the Son of God” (John 1:32-34)
- c. Jesus was popular (Luke 4:14-15, 37; 5:15; 6:17; 7:16-17)

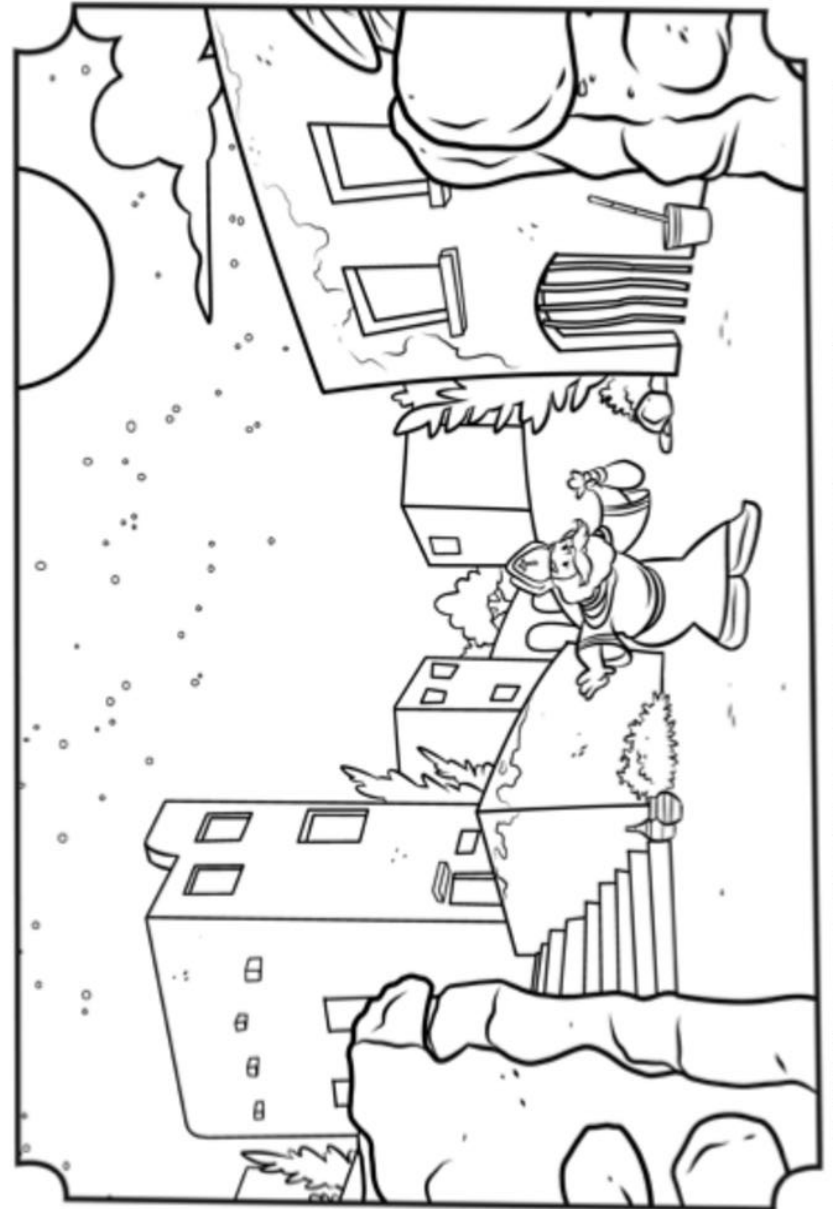
2. Why, after all this, was John unsure of Jesus’ **identity** ?

- John’s **faith** was faltering in Herod’s prison (Lk. 3:19-20)
- John’s faith was strong, but his **patience** was worn thin
- John was **puzzled** about Jesus’ way of bringing judgment

3. How did Jesus respond to their request?

- a. *At that very time* Jesus reveals himself to believing hearts (Lk. 7:21-22 but not to Herod, Luke 23:8-9)
- b. Jesus brought mighty Messianic **mercy** ministry (Isa. 35:5-6; 61:1-2)
- c. Jesus’ healing power extends beyond **death**
- d. Jesus gospel-ized the **poor** with undeserved salvation

December 6 marked Saint Nicholas Day. Historically speaking, there's not much we really know about Nicholas. Though he's one of the most popular saints in the Greek and Latin churches, his existence isn't attested by any historical document. All we can say is that he was *probably* the bishop of Myra (near modern Finike, Turkey) sometime in the 300s.



St. Nicholas was a wealthy Christian who would give away his money to the poor. When he heard someone needed help, he would walk around at night and throw money in through the window.