



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

# St Mary's Cathedral

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ*

## Great Expectations (Matthew 11:1-15)

*We need some background on John the Baptist:*

### **Read Matthew 3:1-12**

1. *What was John preparing the people for? What did he expect to happen next?*

### **Read Mathew 14:3-5**

2. *Why was John in prison?*

### **Read Matthew 11:1-6**

3. *What question was John asking about Jesus?*
4. *Why do you think he was having these doubts?*

*Jesus' reply references the prophet Isaiah. **Read Isaiah 35:3-6a and Isaiah 61:1-2.***

5. *How would this answer John's question?*

### **Read Matthew 11:7-15**

6. *In verses 7 & 8 Jesus uses two images. What do these images say about what John was not?*
7. *What does Jesus say John was?*

*Jesus again references a prophet, this time Malachi. **Read Malachi 3:1 and 4:5-6.***

8. *In speaking of John this way, what is Jesus claiming about himself?*
9. *John prepared the way for the Kingdom of heaven, even in the face of violent opposition. In what way are those who belong to the Kingdom greater than John?*
10. *What response did Jesus want from the listening crowd?*

11. ***Have you ever felt like John, wondering if Jesus really is the one? How does having a right appreciation of Jesus and right expectations of the Kingdom answer those disappointments and doubts?***

*Use these verses to pray together*

- *Thankful that in Jesus God himself has come*
- *Asking God to give us right expectations of his Kingdom as we wait for Jesus' return*
- *Praying for those who are disappointed and questioning, that they will find assurance in Christ*