“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” What a question to have to answer!

The gospel begins with the report that the imprisoned John the Baptist heard what the Messiah was doing. So, we see right off the bat, that John believes Jesus is the Messiah.

When you look at the circumstances, Jesus wasn’t some rich kid who grew up in a prominent family. He was, rather, from a very humble family background. But, people are noticing what Jesus is saying and doing. People want to know who Jesus is. Now, it’s known that some believe he is the Messiah.

Jesus humbly does not answer the question, but rather tells John’s followers to report what they have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, the dead rise. The main message is, “those who are down and out, don’t worry, God is on your side.” He speaks of John as the one about whom it is written. He also speaks of John’s greatness and says that the least in heaven is greater than John.

So, now, it’s up to each of us to answer the questions: Is Jesus the Messiah in our lives? Do we believe that all are equal in God’s sight—the poor, the lonely, the abandoned, the unsheltered? If we do, what do we do about it? Are we acting as ones who are messengers of Jesus? Do we live with tolerance and care for all? This is the big question for Advent: Are we showing the world, by the way we live, that we believe Jesus is the Messiah?