

This lesson is an exhortation to patient expectation in preparation for the coming of the Lord. One may learn from the farmer, who must wait for the crop to ripen, or from the prophets who bore suffering with patience. Such endurance excludes a grumbling blaming of one another. The Lord will come soon.

Listen now as I read this passage from the book of James.

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 11:7-11

In our gospel passage Jesus responds to a question from John the Baptist about his mission and then describes John's ministry. Jesus' answer to John's question suggests that people must make up their own minds about his role while observing the healings that are taking place in accordance with ancient prophecies. Those who hear Jesus are also to recognize that John is a prophet and more: he is the one who prepares for the Lord's coming.

Hear now these words from the gospel of Matthew

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Liturgist: This is the gospel message of our Lord and Savior

All: May the reading and the hearing of Your word inform our minds, comfort our souls, and guide our feet.

