

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he **sent word** by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" "Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me. "**As they went away**, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who **wear soft robes** are in royal palaces. What then 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, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' **Truly** I tell you, among those born of women no one **has arisen** greater than John **the Baptist**; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Let anyone with ears listen!"** **But** to what will I compare this generation? **It is** like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John **came** neither eating nor drinking, and **they** say, 'He has a demon!'; the Human One **came** eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' **Yet** wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John **summoned two** of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" **When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'"** **Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind.** And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." **When John's messengers had gone**, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who **put on fine clothing and live in luxury** are in royal palaces. What then 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, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." **(And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had been baptized with John's baptism. But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves.)** "To what then will I compare the people of this generation, **and what are they like? They are** like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.' For John **the Baptist has come** eating no **bread** and drinking no **wine**, and **you** say, 'He has a demon!'; the Human One **has come** eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' **Nevertheless**, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."