

## Evidences of Christ's Gospel

By  
Rev. H. P. Robinson

*“Art thou he that should come or do we look for another” (Matthew 11:3)*

[Editor's Note: This is one of Rev. Robinson's radio messages. For a number of years during his pastorate in Rockingham, NC, he hosted a weekly radio program that featured singers from his church and usually a brief message like this one.]

John the Baptist, the great forerunner of Christ, lay in chains in the dark castle of Machaerus, waiting his execution day. His work was done. He had heralded the coming of the bright and morning star. His voice that was heard in the wilderness was now silent. Never again would he lift his clarion call of repentance to the wayside travelers of Palestine. He had reached the pinnacle of earthly attainment when to him was given the honor of baptizing the Messiah in the Jordan.

It was then that John made that unselfish statement that proved him to be the greatest man ever born of women. “He must increase but I must decrease.” “Behold, the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world.” This last statement was made for the benefit of the people and for his own disciples. He wanted to draw the attention of the people away from himself and towards Christ. From that day John began to fade and Jesus began to gain in popularity.

John is at last thrown in prison by Herod because he had preached to Herod about his sins. This imprisonment must have been a great trial to his faith, this man of the desert and of wide open spaces, confined in this black, dark prison. But we may be sure that he was comforted with the thought that he had done his job well. I know that there are those who say that John began to doubt, that his confinement shattered his faith and that he

began to wonder if the one he had baptized was really the Christ. But it seems unfair to this mighty prophet to accuse him of faltering as he neared the end. I shall give you what seems to me to be a more fitting tribute to the integrity of this wilderness preacher.

Some of his disciples were still with him. They were faithful to him while he was in prison. Many of them, however, had already gone to become followers of Jesus. But a few still had their eyes on John and their faith was in him. This John knew. He also knew that he would soon go to a martyr's death and then where would his disciples turn? So, for their own good and to give them a greater one to whom they could look, he sent them to Jesus, saying, ask him if he is the one or if we should look for another.

They went and Jesus' reply to their inquiry, "Go and tell John that you saw the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and to the poor the Gospel is preached." These men bore this message with joy to John. When a few days later John was murdered by Herod, this vision of the mighty works of Jesus was fresh in the minds of John's disconsolate disciples. And from his funeral they went to join that greater company in fellowship with Jesus Christ.

I am impressed with the message that Jesus sent to John. He was saying, "This is the evidence of the Gospel message. These signs shall follow them that believe on me." My friends, do not look for another. Look only to Jesus. The greatest miracle of all is that Jesus can save the sinner's soul. No one else can do that. Please pray with me.