

REFLECTION

December 14, 2025

Advent week 3

Matthew 11:11

Jesus says, "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." Certainly, during Advent, John becomes our guide. His life teaches us to wait actively, with clarity, honesty, and a strong yearning for God.

John is at the border of the Old and the New. He is the last and greatest prophet; he was a man of courage, simplicity, and unwavering determination. His entire life pointed to Christ. He said, "Christ must increase; I must decrease." Thus, John is great not because of his worldly accomplishments, but because he was completely committed to God's calling. His greatness is rooted in humility and obedience, yet he was the least in the kingdom.

In the above verse, Jesus discloses an unexpected truth: even the least disciple of the kingdom is greater than John, not in personal virtue, but in the gift received. John pointed to the Messiah, and disciples live by His grace. John foretold the dawn; Christians now walk in the full light of salvation. This magnificence is the gift of participation in Christ's life through faith, baptism, and the Holy Spirit. However, Jesus is not rating people but rather urging us to appreciate the blessing of being His disciples. Belonging to the kingdom grants access to grace that even John could only predict from a distance. Our goal is to live that grace with the loyalty and courage that John demonstrated, pointing others to Christ by our words, compassion, and honesty. John shows us that holiness begins with truth before God and readiness for His coming. As we journey through Advent, may the Lord give us the humility of John the Baptist and open our hearts to his coming, that we may live fully as children of his Kingdom.