

SCC Small Group Discussion
The Senses of Christmas: Hearing – Matthew 3:1-12
Derived from a sermon on December 17, 2023 by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Getting Started:

What are some sounds of Christmas? What visual images are they associated with?

Talk about the last time you heard something that challenged your beliefs or expectations.

Searching the Scriptures:

A. Read Matthew 3:1-12 aloud. What stands out to you after hearing this passage?

B. Describe how John the Baptist's voice prepared the way for Jesus.

C. Read Isaiah 40:1-5. How does the beginning of this section, which talks about words of comfort, compare to John the Baptist's confrontational style? What do you think Isaiah 40:4-5 is referring to?

D. Read Malachi 4:5-6. We know from Luke 1:17 that this is talking about John the Baptist as the prophet who would precede the Messiah. How did John fulfill verse 6?

E. In verses 7-10, John the Baptist addressed the Pharisees and Sadducees. What message was he trying to convey, and why was it important?

F. In verse 11, John the Baptist spoke about the one who was to come after him. How did this prophecy add to the anticipation of Jesus' arrival?

Application of Scripture:

A. How do you listen to God's voice in your life? What helps or hinders your hearing?

B. As you reflect on Christ in this Advent season, what are some practical ways to repent and bear fruit?