



SMALL GROUPS |

CURRICULUM

SERMON TITLE	DATE
MARK "Preparing The Way For Jesus" Mark 1:1-8	November 15, 2015

Read Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."**

The book of Mark was written primarily to Gentiles, with a strong universal call to discipleship

The hope in this study is that as a disciple of Christ you would see more ways in which you can prepare the way of the Lord in your life.

What you need: Bible, Notebook, Pen or pencil or marker

In Order to Prepare The Way For Jesus in your life, Here are 4 Things I Need To Know:

1. Jesus Offers Me A New Beginning 1

- A. Read verse 1 again.** When the crowd heard "gospel" they would have thought of a potential Political leader who would bring victory. This was a bold statement in light of Caesar's current rule. When a high standing government official comes into power what things do they typically promise?
- B.** How does Jesus offer a better promise on each of those points?

2. Jesus Calls For My Attention 2-3

- A.** Go through Mark 1:1-8 and list all the words that refer to speech.
- B.** What is the tone of the message? What is the message?
- C. Read Matt 7:13-14** "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."
- D.** Focus on the narrow gate. What contrast do you see in it's description?
- E.** As you prepare the way for the Lord in your life, what can you expect?

- F. Where has your walk with the Lord led to loneliness, or brought hard times? How can this actually be encouraging?
- G. **Read Isaiah 40:3-5** “A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”” **In Mark 1 we see “John appeared” and was the messenger who prepared the way through preaching repentance and pointing to Christ. Christ is the better messenger who prepared the way to God, doing what Isaiah describes in v4-5... how does Christ do this?**
- H. How might you make the way straight for others in your witness?
- I. How might you be tempted to make it crooked for people or put obstacles in their way?

3. Jesus Demands a Response 4-5

- A. John the Baptist called for repentance which means a changing of ones mind. Our mission at harvest is to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) in the spirit of the Great Commandment (Matt 22:37-39) What change of mind do you need to have in order to fulfill the Great Commission? Why is this essential in living the Christian life?
- B. What does God think and feel about the sin you are struggling with?
- C. How might you go about turning away from that sin and turning to God? To Holiness?

4. Jesus Saves 6-8

- A. Mark gives a description of John (2Kings 1:8 tells us of someone with the same fashion sense) But why did Mark go to the effort of describing John’s clothing and gluten free eating habits? HINT: read the following two verses.
- B. In what ways might your conversations with others cause them to rely on, and seek you, or harvest, or counselling, etc. first and foremost rather Christ? In what ways might you point others to Christ?

MEMORY VERSE :

Mark 1:7-8 “And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. Men/Women:

- i) As you “prepare the way” for the Lord in your life, what is one thing you should do but are not yet convinced of, or are not excited to do? What will you do about this?
- ii) Name one person whom you can be “preparing a way” to make Christ known? How will you do that?