



John the Baptist: Preparing the Way

Mark 1:2-8

A. The Scriptures as Authorial Source (Mark 1:2-3)

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,
3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

A composite scriptural passage from “Isaiah”

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, **I send my messenger before your face,**
who will **prepare your way,** (Mark 1:2)

²⁰ “Behold, **I send an angel before you** to guard you on the way and to bring you **to the place that I have prepared.** (Exodus 23:20)

3 “Behold, I send **my messenger,** and he **will prepare the way** before me. (Malachi 3:1)

A composite scriptural passage from “Isaiah”

³”the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’” (Mark 1:3)

“A voice cries:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’” (Isaiah 40:3)

The listeners of Mark’s gospel would have interpreted the arrival of John as the fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah (c. 742-701 B.C.)

B. Prerequisites for Discipleship (Mark 1:4-5)

Repentance and Confession

- 4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of **repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. 5 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.

David's Repentance and Confession

Psalm 51:1-2

51 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

C. John the Humble Servant (Mark 1:6-8)

6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 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.** 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

C. John the Humble Servant (Mark 1:6-8)

- Living outside of cultural expectations (1:6)
- Pointing in the right direction (1:7)
- Foregrounding something better (1:8)

God is up to something (Mark 1:8b)

6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 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.

8 I have baptized you with water, but **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**"

Let Us Pray

