

# Prepare the Way

- Joshua 3:5- Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."
- Exodus 19:10-11- And the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people."
- The Pattern: The people consecrate themselves, the people repent and clean their hearts, and then God shows up.
- Isaiah 40:3-5- A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together."
- Before Jesus' ministry on the earth began, before broken hearts were healed, and beauty was exchanged for ashes, blind eyes were opened, and prisoners set free, before true joy and hope and peace and life were known on the earth...John made a way by calling the people to holiness and repentance.
- "...without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14. Holiness is a precursor to seeing the move of God.
- 1 Peter 1:14-16- As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."
- Just because you separate yourself from sin, doesn't make you holy.
- "If anybody has a call on their life...if they're first not called to holiness, then they don't have a call."
- Holiness is my life, completely, 100% set apart for God. We have one purpose for our lives: to bring God glory.
- "This last season, Christians have become more evangelistic with their political ideology than their biblical theology." Tim Dilena
- If we post more than we pray, there's a problem. If we're constantly evangelizing our political ideology more than we are Jesus, if we're reading the news more than the Bible, we're not fully set apart.
- Holiness is dependent upon relationship.
- 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1- For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

- If we want to pursue holiness, we must be given to intimacy and relationship building with God. We build relationship to the Father in prayer, we build relationship to Jesus through The Word, and the Holy Spirit is heavily involved in both of those.
- Obedience is a natural outcome of intimacy.
- John 14:15- "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
- Luke 10:27- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind..." Holiness is ALL my heart, soul, strength, and mind set apart to God.
- If we pursue God, we pursue what is Holy and that is what prepares the way of the Lord to have His way in your life.