

The Preparation for Ministry

Luke 3:1-23

When Jesus Christ came to Palestine there was only one advance man. It was the task of John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of the Son of God and then to get out of the way. And there is a sense in which all of us are to prepare the way for the coming of Christ in the lives of others. Let's see five ways that John prepared for the coming of Christ and learn from his example.

I. John's _____ . (vv. 1-2)

- A. John lived _____ from most people.
 - 1. His _____ was different.
 - 2. His _____ was different.
 - 3. His _____ was different.
- B. We can help prepare people's hearts for Christ by being _____ different.
 - 1. By living _____.
 - 2. By dressing _____.
 - 3. By not _____.
 - 4. By _____ for people.
 - 5. By practicing a diet of _____ - _____.

II. John's _____ . (vv. 3-60)

- A. Baptism was a maverick, _____ practice.
- B. When we get _____ it can be a way of preparing the way for _____ to receive Christ.

III. John's _____ . (vv. 7-14)

- A. John's preaching was _____.
- B. John's preaching was not all _____ thinking and building up people's _____ - _____.
- C. John welcomed even the _____ to his audience.
- D. One of the _____ ways we help to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Christ is through _____.

IV. John's _____ . (vv. 15-18)

- A. John knew his _____ and humbly _____ it.
- B. A _____ of _____ goes a long way in helping other people to receive Christ.

V. John's _____ . (vv. 19-23)

- A. John was _____, but he wasn't a _____.
- B. We can prepare the way by being _____ without being _____.