

“Prepare the way for Jesus”

Mark 1: 1 – 8

Similar passages are found in Matt. 3: 1-12, Luke 3: 1-20, and John 1: 19-28.

Consider the audience of each Gospel writer:

Matthew is written to the **Hebrews**

Mark is written to **Romans**

Luke is written to **Greeks**

John is written to all the people of **the world**

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way – a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him’” (v. 1-3)

Isaiah 40:3

John’s message of preparation was eagerly received by the people! They had been waiting for the fulfillment of God’s promised Messiah. There was a spiritual hunger and thirst that grew out of 400 years of prophetic silence. (End of the OT to then)

And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

(v. 4-5)

Repentance (changing the way you think about yourself and God) is the way we prepare for the Lord. It is what Peter called the people to on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2: 14-40)

John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. (v. 6)

These are the kinds of details that an eyewitness would share. Whether Mark was an eyewitness, or simply compiling their memories matters little. It simply lends credence to the truthfulness of the summary he is presenting.

And this was his message: “After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

(v. 7-8)

John’s life/message pointed people to Jesus. **Does yours?**