



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Preparing the Way

Speaker: Pastor Tony Orihuela

Highlighted Scripture

Malachi 4:5–6

God promised to send a messenger in the spirit of Elijah who would turn hearts back toward Him and prepare the way before the coming of the Lord.

Luke 1:13–17

The angel declared that John would be filled with the Spirit and would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, turning hearts and preparing people for Him.

Matthew 11:10–14

Jesus confirmed that John the Baptist was the promised messenger—the one sent ahead to prepare the way, fulfilling what was spoken by the prophets.

Discussion Questions

➤ **What does it mean that John the Baptist came “in the spirit and power of Elijah”?**

➤ **Why was it important for God to send a messenger before Jesus?**

➤ **How does Jesus’ confirmation about John the Baptist strengthen your trust in prophecy?**

➤ **What does it look like in your life to be spiritually “ready” for Jesus?**

➤ **How should the reality of Christ’s return affect the way we live daily?**

Reflection Challenge

This week, focus on living with awareness that Jesus is coming again—not in fear, but in readiness.

Ask yourself:

➤ **Am I spiritually prepared if Jesus returned today?**

➤ **Is my heart aligned with God, or am I putting off things I know I need to address?**

➤ **Am I helping point others toward Christ, like John the Baptist did?**

Try this:

Set aside time to examine your heart honestly before God

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that needs to change

Take one step toward deeper obedience or surrender

Remember

God always fulfills His promises—even across generations

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, just as prophesied

Jesus is not only Savior—He is returning King

Readiness is not about perfection, but about a surrendered heart

Prayer

Father God,

Thank You for fulfilling Your promises and sending Jesus as our Savior.

Help me to live with a heart that is ready for His return.

Search me, refine me, and draw me closer to You.

Give me boldness to point others to Christ as I wait expectantly.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

