

MARK: Who Is Jesus?

Truth has to be true for everyone, otherwise it cannot hold anyone to account. Jesus proclaimed that he was the truth, and we will grapple with that claim and meet Jesus through this study.

Mark 1:1-4

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as 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 wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’ ”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

The New International Version. (2011). (Mk 1:1–4). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

The beginning of the good news, Jesus the Messiah, the son of God. While it seems that this claim starts right out the gate, we get to see dramatic irony in play when we read the characters struggle to realize this and even reject Jesus' claim.

We then go on to read about how everyone who accepts this claim goes on to accept a great reward and a great cost, and that's something we want to be clear about: If this claim is true, it's going to cost me.

Preparing the Way

Why is it important to send a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus the Son of God?

The message of the messenger is to "get prepared!" A special guest is coming, and the messenger wants to prepare the way by letting everyone know of an opportunity. "Make straight paths for him!" It's like rolling out a red carpet for this individual.

How do we do that? Those hearing the message, it is clear that the onus is on them to prepare the way. So John the Baptist appears, preaching repentance. **The preparation of this special guest is to repent.**



If we want truth and see who Jesus is, then we can prepare the way for him by repenting.

You can make a straight path from Jesus to yourself through repentance.

What is Repentance?



It is a message that starts with hearing truth and then changing my own thinking, surrendering my truth, and beginning to agree with that truth, which in turn changes my mind and changes my actions.

The baptism of John signifies this internal revolution by signifying the cleansing change from the outside.

If repentance is a straight path, what does Jesus' path look like to us?

- Is our path straight?
- Is Jesus' path straight to you winding and curving with washed out roads?

Mark 1:1-4 asks you, If Jesus is the Son of God, then what does that path look like to you? If it is crooked, you can pave straight through that with repentance. And it is not too late to repent right now.

Additionally, what is stopping me from getting water baptized?

When Jesus Meets Real Life

If Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, what does that mean for me when I'm in the middle of life, or work, or relationships, and I want to act on sin that is brewing in my heart?

The initial repentance makes the path straight for Jesus to arrive, but for Jesus and the Father to make their home in you, we must walk the path of repentance as a lifestyle of obedience.

John 14:23

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

The New International Version. (2011). (Jn 14:23). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

How do I respond when I am in the middle of my pain and weakness? We can pause and ask ourselves what it means for Jesus to be the King of my life, and how the Holy Spirit is calling me to respond.

If you haven't made the path straight, you always have an opportunity to repent and pave the way; lower the mountains and raise the valleys.

