

# Advance to the Manger — Day 2

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## Clear the Path

Isaiah 40:3-5 NIV

Isaiah prophesied, "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.'"

### Introduction:

Journeying to the Manger: Clear the Path

- Meditate on the idea of clearing away distractions and obstacles in your life.
- Read Isaiah 40:3-5 and consider how preparing the way is part of our Advent journey.
- Prayer: Seek God's help in removing anything hindering your connection with Him.

In the season of Christmas, we eagerly anticipate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we reflect on Isaiah 40:3-5, we are reminded of the importance of clearing our hearts and minds to make way for His arrival. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to clear the path in order to advance to the manger.

### Heart Reflection

#### 1. Let go of pride and self-righteousness:

Just as valleys are lifted up and mountains made low, we are called to humble ourselves before the Lord. Pride and self-righteousness can hinder our spiritual growth and prevent us from truly encountering Jesus. Let us humbly acknowledge our need for Him, allowing His grace to fill our hearts and transform our lives.

#### 2. Remove obstacles of sin and distraction:

The rough ground and rugged places mentioned in the passage symbolize the obstacles of sin and worldly distractions that can obstruct our spiritual journey. Advent is a time to examine our hearts and confess our sins, seeking God's forgiveness and cleansing. Let us also identify and eliminate any distractions that divert our attention from God, making intentional choices to prioritize our relationship with Him.

#### 3. Cultivate a spirit of anticipation and expectation:

The voice in the wilderness was calling people to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Likewise, we are called to cultivate a spirit of anticipation and expectation as we approach the manger. Fixing our eyes on Jesus, we can eagerly await His presence, allowing the joy and hope of His coming to fill our hearts.

### Call To Action

- **Clear the Path**
  - Removing obstacles
  - preparing your hearts

- we create room for the glory of the Lord to be revealed in our lives.
- **Be the Voice**
  - Just like John the Baptist called out to all around him to prepare the way for Jesus.
  - Let us commit today to tell others the Lord is coming.
  - This is the season of Christ and His Kingdom.
  - Who is there in your life you can pray for and call to share with them the reason for the season.

### **Take A Way**

Let us approach the manger with humility, repentance, and a sense of anticipation, knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises and the source of eternal hope. May this Christmas season be a time of deep spiritual preparation as we journey towards the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, as we enter into this season of Christmas, help us to clear the path in our hearts and minds. Remove any pride, sin, or distractions that hinder our relationship with You. Fill us with anticipation and expectation as we advance the manger, longing to encounter Your glory and experience the joy of Your presence. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.