



Message Discussion Guide Week of January 14, 2024

Message: Turn the Page, Part 2: Prepare the Way

Key Scriptures: [Mark 1:1-8](#)

Preachers: Pastor Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

The ministry of John the Baptist is akin to a spiritual GPS navigation system. He comes to help people see that they are not on the right path and that if they want to see the truth of Jesus the Messiah, the need to turn around and change direction.

John is Jesus' cousin, born in the same year as Jesus. He comes onto the scene as a thirty-year-old adult wearing clothing reminiscent of the prophet Isaiah.

John preached a message of repentance.

- To repent means to turn around, change one's mind, and move in a different direction.
- John invited people to get ready for the coming of Jesus by confessing their sins and being baptized as an outward sign of their inward desire to change.

Just as people repented to prepare the way for Jesus then, so we can repent to prepare for Jesus to enter our hearts now. True repentance requires three things:

1. Confess your sins.
2. When possible, make things right.
3. Turn away from sin and toward righteousness.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) If there was a GPS system for your spirit, would it say that you are moving in the right direction? In what ways is the direction of your life aligned with God's desires for you? In what ways is it misaligned?
- 2.) Why do you think the people in Judea resonated with John's message? What made it do appealing that so many came out to be baptized?
- 3.) [Read Mark 1:1-8:](#)

- a. Why does Mark tell us that John's ministry fulfills Old Testament prophecy? What does that say about the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament?
 - b. What is the significance of John coming from the wilderness? What role does the wilderness play in the history of Israel?
 - c. Why does John say he is not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals? What is he saying about his relationship with Jesus?
 - d. What is the difference between being baptized with water and baptized with the Holy Spirit?
- 4.) Why is it so important to confess our sins? What makes confession difficult? How do you confess your sins? Do you ever confess to other people?
 - 5.) What are some examples of ways that you have tried to make things right after you sinned against someone? Why is it important to do what you can to make things right? What do you do in a situation where there is nothing you can do to make things right?
 - 6.) What does it mean to turn away from sin and to turn toward righteousness?
 - 7.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?