

A Voice for God

Mark 1:1-8



John Teaches Us What Our Calling Is

- John's job was to:
 - Prepare the way for the Messiah's coming.
 - Prepare people for the Messiah's coming.
 - Point the people to Jesus.
- We too are called to prepare the way of Jesus in people's lives and point them to Jesus.
- God has called us to be highway builders, smoothing the way by our godly lives for others to come to Christ.

The Prerequisite of Salvation: Repentance

- Baptism is an outward manifestation of repentance for the forgiveness of sin.
- Jews understood baptism to be symbolic of the washing on the inside.
- The word “repent” means to have a change of mind about your relationship with God.
- The Bible teaches that repentance alone will not save.
- The prerequisite to come to Jesus is to admit your sinful condition and turn from your sin to God.
- Repentance means that you recognize that you are going the wrong direction.

Kingdom Living Is More About Jesus and Less About Me

- John lived a life of self-denial and commitment to God.
- John realized that Kingdom living was not about having things, but in knowing and serving God.
- He recognized that as he magnified Jesus his influence would dim.
- John lost disciples to Jesus once Jesus came on the scene.
- As we grow in Christ, He must increase, and we must decrease!

Conclusion

- John's message was "repent and be baptized."
- Each of us, by birth, arrives in a town called Sin.
- There is only one way out, a road built by God Himself.
- In order to take that road, we must first turn around.
- Without repentance, there is no way to avoid God's judgement and the ultimate destination of Hell.