



# John The Baptist

Isaiah 40:3-5, Matthew 3:1-17

# John Prepares The Way



- John the Baptist's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus.
- When John began his mission, he preached a message of baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
- John was preparing the way for Jesus who offered forgiveness outside the temple system.
- There were problems with the sacrificial system in that it had become separated from the act of repentance.
- Repentance is not only being sorry for sin but turning away from sin and doing it no more.

# John's Message



- The Jews thought that they were okay since they were children of Abraham no matter how they lived their lives.
- John told them that this was not acceptable to God, nor had it ever been.
- The people would only find acceptance by God if they turned to Him in repentance.
- John prepared the way for Jesus by pointing out that the outward forms of religion were useless if there was no inner change.
- John's baptism was not a quick fix to get to heaven, it required a change in behavior.
- Jesus' message was the same except Jesus accepted everyone and told them that God would help them change.

# We Prepare The Way



- We are to prepare people for the arrival of Christ in their lives by essentially telling them the same message that John the Baptist was given to preach.
- Too often Christianity is presented in watered down version that just misses the point.
- Sometimes we make it seem too easy to become a Christian.
- Jesus did not come to lower the standard, but rather He came to enable us to meet it.
- Christianity is not about avoiding the standard through Jesus; it is about Jesus enabling us to meet the standard.
- We need to live proper Christian lives, so that people can see Christ in us and see in us what it means to be a Christian.

# Conclusion



- If we are to see the Church revived and God's Kingdom to grow, then we need to follow the example of John the Baptist.
- We need to make it clear that to be a Christian is to follow Christ by being righteous.
- We are not a Christian because we say we are sorry; Christianity is about changing with God's help.