

God's Servant Introduced

Mark 1:1-11

Truth: No one ever talks about Jesus too much!!! It is impossible to make too much of Him!

Main Idea: The coming of Jesus to our lives is so significant that it requires heart preparation. Joy to the world the Lord is come! Let every heart prepare Him room! And heaven and nature sing!

God prepares us for His Son's arrival by . . .

1. Communicating to us ahead of time.

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. . . .” (Malachi 3:1 ESV)

“A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” (Isaiah 40:3 ESV)

Application: We prepare for Jesus' coming to us by listening to God's many announcements about Jesus in His Book. These announcements help us to know the priority that God places on His Son and to confirm the reliability of God's promises!

2. Choosing a forerunner

“But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.” (Luke 1:13 ESV)

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Luke 1:39-42 ESV)

“And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;” (Mark 7:6 ESV)

Truth: God prepares our hearts to receive Jesus by reminding us of His judgment upon sin.

Truth: God prepares our hearts to receive Jesus by confronting our vain desires for the world with its temporal pleasures and its empty approval.

Truth: God prepares hearts to receive Jesus by showing how much more important He is than we are.

3. Calling us to repent.

Truth: Repentance prepares our hearts to receive Jesus and all the good that He brings to us. Without repentance, our sins blind us to His glory and harden us to His tender mercies.

Repentance is a turning from self-rule toward submission to God. Repentance is a discovery not that man's sin is a bad, terrible, soul-destroying thing. Repentance is the discovery that MY SIN is a bad, terrible, soul-destroying thing.

"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Martin Luther's First Thesis posted on the Wittenberg Door.

Truth: Repentance is the key that opens door of God's forgiveness.

*"Be ashamed when you sin,
don't be ashamed when you repent –
Sin is the wound, repentance is the medicine.
Sin is followed by shame;
repentance is followed by boldness
Satan has overturned this order
and given boldness to sin and shame to repentance."*
St. John Chrysostom, AD 357-407

Truth: No one is ready to meet Jesus and benefit from Him until they have met their sins and become undone by them.

My soul, sit down and recognize that a just God is bound to punish sin; then consider how that punishment all falls upon the Lord Jesus, and fall down in humble joy at the feet of Him whose blood has made atonement for you. It is useless when conscience is aroused to trust in feelings and evidences for comfort; this is a bad and sorry habit. The only cure for a guilty conscience is the sight of Jesus suffering on the cross. C. Spurgeon