

MARK 1:1-8 The Man in the Wilderness

2.10.08

*2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,*

3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,""*

4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

To follow Christ, we must see, encounter, and follow the Man in the Wilderness.

See the Promised Man

Isaiah 40:3-5

*3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.*

*5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

Malachi 3:1

1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts."

Questions for Reflection:

Are you trusting in the covenant Lord's coming? Are you proclaiming repentance? Are you making paths straight? Are you raising valleys and lowering mountains?

Application:

1. If you haven't already put your faith in Christ, trust Him.
2. Live the promised Gospel, and give it to others.
3. Claim Romans 2:4 and live in it.

Encounter the Peculiar Man

God uses peculiar people for peculiar purposes.

v.4 "the baptism of repentance"

v.5 "confessing their sins"

v.6 "camel's hair," "locusts," and "wild honey?"

This is one weird dude.

Application:

1. Rest in your "peculiar-ness."

Exodus 19:5

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;

See also, Deuteronomy 14:2, 26:18; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9

2. Live with an attitude of repentance that leads to faith.

Some of us may feel like we have nothing to offer, but God has uniquely shaped us, and sovereignly ordained our lives for use in His kingdom within his divine plan.

Follow the Pride-less Man

v. 7 John clearly places Christ ministry over his own.

v. 8 Baptism is an issue of humility.

Questions for Reflection:

How is your humility? Are you living, motivated by pride and fear? Do you put limits on how, when, and where God can work in your life? Is your baptism in order (conviction, repentance, baptism)?

Application:

1. Follow Christ in obedience through believer's baptism.
2. In the attitude of repentance walk humbly.

Implications of the Wilderness

Bible Bites for Teaching Your Children at Home:

- The Bible is one Big Story and it all points to Jesus.
- Mark gives us the answer to the most important question in the world—"Who is Jesus?" The Answer : Jesus is God!

We'd love to help! Email us at info@crossinglouisville.com or call 339.0281 office.

Visit www.crossinglouisville.com for more helpful resources, including study guides on Mark.

Works Consulted : Messages by Steve Hart, H.A.Ironside, and Tim Keller New American Commentary by James A. Brooks.