

## **The Way of a Servant: Mark**

### **Preparing the Way**

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*The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Mark 1:1)*

#### **Jesus: “the way” foretold...**

*It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” – “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” (vv. 2-3)*

#### **John: “the way” prepared...**

*And so John came, baptizing in the desert region... (v. 4a)*

- **His message: repent and receive** – “...and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (v. 4b)

¶ **The words of spiritual disease: “I’m not wrong”** – “An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.” (Psalm 36:1-2)

*He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. (Prov. 28:13)*

- **His ministry: preach and baptize** – “The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan river.” (v. 5)

*John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. (v. 6)*

- **His purpose: point people to Jesus** – “And this was his message: ‘After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’” (vv. 7-8)

*“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5)*

*“Thus the saying ‘One sows and the other reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.” (John 4:37-38)*