

Title: The Message of Change

Text: Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, ^[a] the Son of God, ^[b]

²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”^[c]—

³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”^[d]

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The 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. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with ^[e] water, but he will baptize you with ^[f] the Holy Spirit.”

Introduction:

- Mark is the “Go Gospel.” Mark was always in a hurry! He believed in coming straight to the point.
- He did not like “beating around the bush!” Mark wrote with the Romans in mind.
- Mark writes about the beginning of the ministry of Jesus as he writes about the man who was sent to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- John the Baptist was the prophet of God who was sent to prepare the way for His Son, Jesus Christ. And what a great prophet John the Baptist was! Jesus said of him, “Among those born of woman there is no one greater than John” ([Luke 7:28](#)).
- **The forerunner had two primary duties:**
 1. He was to make certain that the roads were passable. There was to be no delays when the king passed through. He was to have a clear, open route through the kingdom.
 2. The forerunner was to let the people know that the king was coming. He was to go along the route before the king came through and he was to get ready for the king.
- John said, “I am but a voice crying, “Make ready! Prepare! The King is coming!”

John's Message of Change:

I. His Message was a Message of Confrontation. v.4

- John gave the people a wonderful gift by preaching on sin and judgment. John told the people about the judgment of their sins.

- Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted” ([Matthew 5:4](#)). Those who mourn over their sin see their need for grace and for the Savior and are then in a place to receive His salvation and be blessed.

II. His Message was a Message of Change. vv. 4-5

- How do you change? Repent!
- **WHAT IS REPENTANCE?** One definition of repentance is "a change of mind" - a decision, a choice, a determination of the heart, a deliberate exercise of the will - in which one determines to act differently in the future than he has in the past.
- You can't be forgiven of sin if you don't believe that you have sinned and need forgiveness.
- Repentance actually is a 2 part concept:
 - 1st is a change of mind – you don't think the way you used to think;
 - 2nd is a corresponding change of life – you don't do what you used to do.
- Repentance means a change of mind and heart which results in a change of action.

III. His Message was a Message to Clean up their Lives. vv. 2-3,5

- Repentance and faith are inseparable and occur simultaneously in a sinner's heart; you cannot have one without the other.
- Acts 20:21 says “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”.
- Repentance is turning from sin; and faith is turning to Christ. Repentance comes about through the convicting power of the Spirit of God using the Word of God to cause a change of attitude, action, and affection.
- Mateo 3:8 ⁸ Kung tunay na nagsisisi kayo sa inyong mga kasalanan, patunayan ninyo ito sa inyong mga gawa.

For Discussion:

1. Why is repentance so important? Explain your answer.
2. As God's messenger today, what are the things you need to give importance in your life?
3. What have you learned personally and how will you apply it in your life?