

INTRODUCTION

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

“As it is written in Isaiah the prophet...” (Mark 1:2a)

Note: Every New Testament author _____ the Old Testament and LOVES to show how God never changes, how God is faithful to His word, and how God has been sovereignly working throughout human history to bring about HIS glorious, victorious plan of salvation!

I. PREPARING THE WAY FOR JESUS

Mark 1:2-4a -

1) John’s Introduction: Mark actually **BEGINS** his prophetic quotation with _____ chapter 3 and then **SWITCHES** to Isaiah chapter 40!

“Behold, I send MY messenger, and he will prepare the way before ME.” (Malachi 3:1a)

*“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)*

Note: Quoting Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3—and applying them directly to John the Baptist and the coming of Jesus—is an unmistakable claim of _____!

Mark 1:4-5 -

2) John’s Location: John preached and baptized in the _____!

Mark 1:4-5 -

3) John's Preaching: BE _____! You're not okay; you're choking on your sin; you're being crushed under the weight of your shame and guilt. You need life; you need cleansing; you need to turn to God to find wholeness, healing, and forgiveness in Him!

(Luke 3:8-9)

Note: We help NO ONE when we ignore sin and pretend like judgment is never coming, BUT we truly love others and glorify God when we _____ people to find life and forgiveness in Jesus!

(1 Thessalonians 1:9)

Note: To "confess" sin means "to say the _____ thing" about your sin that God does.

(Psalm 51:1-4a, 10-12)

Note: As growing, maturing followers of Jesus, we should live lives of _____ repentance and confession!

(Luke 24:46-47)

Mark 1:6 -

4) John's Diet & Clothing: John's simple diet and plain clothing _____ his humble, earnest, straightforward, uncomplicated life of devotion and service to God!

Mark 1:7-8 -

5) John's Mission: Look to the ONE who is coming! Look to the ONE who is mighty! He will drench you not with water but with the _____!

(Romans 8:12-15)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. From which two prophets does Mark quote? What do we learn from these quotations?
2. How would you describe and characterize the life and ministry of John the Baptist?
3. What is humble, biblical "repentance"? What does it mean to "confess" sin?
4. Do you see repentance and confession of sin as being present and active in your life? Where?
5. What did John the Baptist have to say about Jesus, the coming Messiah? What would He do?