



Preparing

Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Second Sunday of Advent

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December 9, 2012

John the Baptist preparing the way for Christ.

1. Selected by God to prepare the way for Christ.

(Isaiah 40:1-5; Mark 1:1-4; Luke 1:5-24, 76-79)

2. Served God in preparing the way for Christ.

(Mark 1:4-5, 7-8)

3. Sacrificed to prepare the way for Christ.

(Mark 1:4, 6, 14; Matthew 4:12; 14:1-12; Luke 7:18-35; John 1:15, 19-34)

Our preparing the way for Christ.

1. Selected by God to prepare the way for Christ.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8; 10:42-43; Romans 10:13-15; 1 Corinthians 9:16; Ephesians 3:8; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:8-12)

2. Serve God in preparing the way for Christ.

(Acts 9:15-20; Romans 1:15; 15:18; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:2; 4:5; 1 John 3:18)

3. Sacrifice to prepare the way for Christ.

(Acts 5:41; 9:16; 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, 16-18; Philippians 3:8-11; 2 Timothy 2:3; 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. John the Baptist was a unique man with a unique role. At the same time, he is an excellent example for us. God promised this special person about 700 years before John was born. He was clearly selected by God for his role of preparing people for, preparing the way of the Messiah (see Isaiah 40:1-5; Mark 1:1-4).

John the Baptist served God faithfully (see Mark 1:4-5, 7-8). He sacrificed to carry out God's call (see Mark 1:4, 6; Matthew 14:1-12). Thank God for John the Baptist, for his faithful and sacrificial service.

Tuesday. John the Baptist is an example for us. We also are called to prepare the way for Christ—to prepare people to see and believe in Him. Every believer has been selected by God for this mission. Review the Bible references on this in the outline. You are a messenger of the gospel. Do you really see yourself in this way?

Wednesday. We, like John the Baptist, are to be faithful in serving God to prepare the way for Christ. Review the Bible references on this in the outline. We do this through both Christ-like living and talking about Him with others—we can't have one without the other and be faithful servants. What have you done, what are you going to do to show and tell others about Christ during this season?

Thursday. The subject of sacrifice and suffering may sound foreign to our Christmas celebrations. Yet, like John the Baptist, we truly prepare the way for Christ in part through sacrifice and even suffering. Review the Bible references on this in the outline.

Sacrifice—Christ sacrificed to leave heaven, become one of us, to die for us and our sins. John the Baptist set aside the comfortable life and eventually gave his life to prepare the way for Christ.

How are you sacrificing to prepare the way for Christ in this season? What are you sacrificing so others can hear of Him and receive Him? Are you prepared to suffer for Christ in this season?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday the Sunday School will present a program during our Worship Service. Pray for the children, youth and leaders as you prepare for our time of worship together.