

Beginnings

Scripture: Mark 1:1-11

Series: Come, Follow Me

A forerunner is prophesied:

- Isaiah 40:3
- Malachi 3:1

The idea of preparing the way of the Lord is a powerful word picture because the real _____ must take place in our _____.

- This wasn't just about _____ decisions as much as it is about _____ understanding of _____ as God's people.
- The call to repentance was the _____ to the news that the Messiah was _____.
- The Jewish people are responding because this is a _____ that the people of God are to be a _____ so that the holy God may _____ in their midst.

euthus = _____

Application:

1. God has a _____ and is working things according to that plan.
 - How are you doing in using your gift(s) for God?
2. Different _____ have different _____ in God's plan.
 - Are you satisfied with how God made you? Are you fulfilled in ministry?
3. God says _____ is wrong and requires _____ to be forgiven.
 - Do you have unconfessed sin in your life? If so, honor God by confessing it!
4. We all are _____ to _____ people to Jesus.
 - How are you doing in pointing people to Jesus?

Start talking.

- When the mail comes, what do you open and read first?
- When you buy clothes, are you more interested in low price or high quality?

Start thinking.

- What do the context of the quotes (Mal 3:1; Isa 40:3) teach about the coming one?
- Why is John's ministry so popular (vv4-5)?
- What does John's clothing and diet say about him (v6)?
- Given John's message (vv7-8), what type of person is the crowd anticipating? How do these expectations account for the crowd's reception of John, despite his hard message?
- What do you think the dove and the voice (v10-11) meant to Jesus as he came out of the water? As he entered the wilderness? During his temptations? How would all this prepare him?

Start sharing.

- What from your life illustrates what it means to repent?
- When did Jesus Christ become more than just a religious figures or "cuss word" to you?
- What "spiritual wilderness" has God sent you into? How has that confirmed his love or mission?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, sometimes I admit that I want to know all the answers from the beginning. I want to know your plan, how it affects me, as well as what I'm supposed to do. Help me to be patient and trust in each step. May I be found faithful as I point to you in every area of my life.

Start Doing:

- Celebrate God's steadfast love as you go about your life.
- Look for where God is doing something in the ordinariness of life, and join Him.
- Acknowledge and thank God for His faithfulness in the past and place your current struggles at his feet and receive and live into the hope of what only He can do in your life.