



MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD

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DO YOU KNOW WHO JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS?

He was sent by God to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus.

Read Isaiah 40:3-5 "A voice of one calling: 'In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Tell the Story: John the Baptist was the messenger God promised. And he had an important job: to prepare the way for Jesus to come! But John wasn't out in the desert with cement trucks building an actual highway! Isaiah said that God's messenger would help prepare the hearts of God's people to receive Him, because we must prepare our hearts for Jesus.

There are many lessons we can learn from the life of John the Baptist.

1.) IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT.

John the Baptist was kind of strange. He was kind of a wild man. He lived in the wilderness. He ate grasshoppers and honey. But God used him to great purpose. God can use all kinds of people.

2.) HE MADE EVERYTHING ABOUT JESUS.

Even though he had many people follow him, when John the Baptist saw Jesus he said:

26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands One you do not know. 27 He is the One who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

28 All this happened at Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

30 This is He of whom I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.'

31 I myself did not know Him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel."

32 Then John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and resting on Him.

33 I myself did not know Him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

34 I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

3.) HE CHALLENGED PEOPLE TO GET THEIR HEARTS RIGHT. TO REPENT FOR THEIR SINS. NOT JUST TO HAVE A FAKE RELIGION OF PRETEND LOVE FOR GOD.

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, Acts 3:19

We need to repent everyday.

Parents: Lead your kids in repentance.

Now, pray over them, then ask them to pray for you. Let each child lead family in prayer. If they feel emotional, reassure them, they are feeling the presence of God. They could receive the gift of tongues in your home.