

Re.Mark.Able Study
Week 1, Day 1

"John the Baptist Paves the Way"

Prayer: Lord, please help me to focus on You, Your Word, and what You want me to hear from You today.

As you read the following verses, answer the following questions and then compare your answers with those that follow.

- Who is in the text?
- What is happening in the text?
- When does the story take place?
- Where does the story take place?
- Why is this story in the Bible?
- How does this story relate to me and my life?

Mark 1:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,^[a] the Son of God,^[b] **2** as 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]

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The 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. **6** John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** And 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. **8** I baptize you with^[e] water, but he will baptize you with^[f] the Holy Spirit."

Footnotes:

- a. [Mark 1:1](#) Or *Jesus Christ. Messiah* (Hebrew) and *Christ* (Greek) both mean *Anointed One*.
- b. [Mark 1:1](#) Some manuscripts do not have *the Son of God*.
- c. [Mark 1:2](#) Mal. 3:1
- d. [Mark 1:3](#) Isaiah 40:3
- e. [Mark 1:8](#) Or *in*

f. [Mark 1:8](#) Or in

Who: John the Baptist
Jesus, meaning Yahweh saves
Christ, an Old Testament title that designates Him as God's chosen servant
Son of God, makes clear Jesus' deity and demonstrates His unique relationship to
God
People of Judea and Jerusalem

What: John the Baptist is preparing the way for The Messiah by preaching and baptizing as
a symbol of repentance for the remission of sin.

When: About 29 A.D.
Jesus was 30 years old

Where: The Jordan River

Why: In ancient times a messenger was sent ahead to announce the arrival or coming of
someone important. John the Baptist is fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 3:1) and Malachi
(Malachi 40:3) and preparing believers for the coming of the Messiah. John the Baptist was
preaching the gospel of repentance in preparation of the coming of and death of Jesus.

How: (This answer should be personal to each individual.)

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the amazing stories of Jesus Christ in the book of Mark. Please
prepare my heart to hear from You in these amazing stories and relate them to my life in a way that
I may be changed by Your Word.

Re.Mark.Able Study
Week 1, Day 2

"John the Baptist Paves the Way"

Prayer: Lord, please help me to focus on You, Your Word, and what You want me to hear from You today.

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

**"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—**

3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

**'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"**

John the Baptist was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy and preparing the way for Jesus Christ. John was preparing the hearts of the people to understand previous prophecies from Isaiah and Malachi. Many believed, including the disciples, that The Messiah was coming to right the wrongs of the world and "set things straight" here on earth. They did not understand that He was coming to bridge the gap between man and God due to the original sin in the Garden of Eden. John the Baptist was laying the foundation to show the people that they were separated from God due to sin. He was teaching them repentance of sin in preparation for Jesus to fulfill God's plan of a way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to have a relationship with Him .

Everyone sins. Everyone has issues. We don't all have the same issues or sins but we all have something.

- What sin do you need to address to prepare for what The Spirit wants to teach you during your Re.Mark.Able journey?
- What sin is keeping you from an authentic relationship with Christ?
- Using 1 Peter 2:1 and the chart below, take time this week to go through each area of your life looking for unrepented sin and places you need to ask God for forgiveness and release you from the sin that is holding you captive.

Marriage	Children
Friendships	Relationships
Addictions	Laziness

Apathy	Greed
Language	Spiritual Participation
Lust	Gossip
Slander	Self Righteousness
Malice	Envy
Deceit	Hypocrisy

Re.Mark.Able Study
Week 1, Day 3

"John the Baptist Paves the Way"

Prayer: Lord, please help me to focus on You, Your Word, and what You want me to hear from You today.

Mark 1:4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

"Jesus was baptized with John's baptism in obedience to an appointed ordinance. "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). He set a seal of approval on John's message and work, and acknowledged him as the true forerunner of Christ. The baptism by John was ordained of God and therefore was binding on all those who acknowledged God and meant to keep His Commandments.

*Christ was the standard and example of righteousness. He would fulfill every duty He required of others (1 Corinthians 10:13)."*¹

The baptisms of John the Baptist are different from the baptisms we are called to participate in after salvation. John the Baptist could not baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit because Jesus had not formally been introduced as the Son of God and had yet to die for our sins. Therefore, John the Baptist was baptizing people who desired to express their belief in the coming Messiah and their desire to live righteous lives.

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are able to have a relationship with our Father. We are able to go to Him and ask for forgiveness of our sins and have a personal relationship with Him. This is often called being saved or our second birth in Christ. It is only after we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior that we are called to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Baptism is a symbol to family and friends that we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and of our commitment to follow Him. In Acts 19:2-5, Paul had those who had been baptized by John the Baptist baptized again in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Have you asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior? If you have not and would like to, here is a prayer you can pray to accept His today.

¹ Mears, Henrietta C. What the Bible is all About, Ventura: Gospel Light, 1998. Print.

"Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

- Have you followed that with Baptism? If you have not, please contact a River Valley staff person to find out when our next baptism is scheduled.
- If you are not ready to pray that prayer, what is holding you back? Pray that God would give you peace and understanding in whatever area you are struggling with. The staff at RV will be earnestly praying with you in this area.
- If you have accepted Christ as your Savior and have been Baptized, what is your next step? Where is God calling you to grow in order to know Him more deeply?

Re.Mark.Able Study
Week 1, Day 4

"John the Baptist Paves the Way"

Prayer: Lord, please help me to focus on You, Your Word, and what You want me to hear from You today.

Mark 1:5 The 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.

The people from Judea and Jerusalem had just confessed their sin and committed themselves to living righteous lives. However, the true work of these new believers had just begun. When believers confess their sin and flee from it, the evil one takes note! He is always on the ready to step in and attempt to make us doubt our decision and God's promises.

The good news is that there is a solution to the evil one's plans. God will always make a way of escape from sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). When we are tempted by the evil one, we need to look to God for our way out. After we confess our sin and go **out from** it, we **NEED to go into Jesus Christ**. We do this by making time to get to know Him and His Re.Mark.Able stories. Through learning about His stories we are able to connect with Him and have a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Him.

Please read Luke 11:24-26

- How are you doing in regards to the sin you confessed on Day 2?
- Have you accepted God's forgiveness or are you picking up your old habits over and over again?
- How are you going INTO Jesus Christ to fill the void left from going out of sin?
- Pray today for His forgiveness and your acceptance God's promise of forgiveness for any habits you have not surrendered to Him.
- What can you commit to doing from today forward that will help you to go into Jesus Christ?

Re.Mark.Able Study

Week 1, Day 5

"John the Baptist Paves the Way"

Prayer: Lord, please help me to focus on You, Your Word, and what You want me to hear from You today.

Mark 1:6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

After that description, would you follow someone like John the Baptist? Sometimes God sends the most unlikely people to fulfill His plan.

Why do you think so many went to the dessert to hear the Message of John the Baptist?

How does this relate to me:

Who has been a messenger of Christ for you?

Who has prepared the way for you to be ready to hear from Jesus Christ?

Who can you help to be prepared for The Message?

How can you be prepared to deliver The Message when given the opportunity ?

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for sending, _____ into my life to prepare the way for me to learn more about You and to prepare me to accept You as my Lord and Savior. Please help me to be prepared to pave the way for others to accept You as their Lord and Savior. Give me direction in who to seek to share your Word, opportunities to tell others of You, and a boldness and willingness to share Your Word when given that opportunity.

Please also help me to prepare my heart for your Re.Mark.Able stories. Help me to hear Your Word and apply it to my life.

Lord, place upon me a deep desire to know You and to turn toward You in every aspect of my life.

