



May 8, 2022

Dan Reid

Mark 1:2-8

*John Prepares the Way*

Read Mark 1:1-8

1. Why do you think God saw it important to send a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus?
2. One of the titles for Jesus that Mark brings out in verses 2-3 is king. What is significant about the specific title of king?
3. In verse 4 we see John's message, "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins." Discuss this quote by William Lane.

*The summons to be baptized in the Jordan meant that Israel must come once more to the wilderness. As Israel long ago had been separated from Egypt by a pilgrimage through the waters of the Red Sea, the nation is exhorted again to experience separation; the people are called to a second exodus in preparation for a new covenant with God." (William L. Lane)*

4. Why do you think so many people were willing to make the trek to the wilderness to hear John?
5. Why do you think Mark makes it a point to tell us about John's look and lifestyle?
6. How did John point people to Jesus? What will help us to get better at pointing people to Jesus?

7. Discuss this question in Dan's sermon. *"What if we could get to a place where we understood that there may be really important work that God wants to do in our hearts, and it won't happen unless we follow him into the desert."*

*"The desert invites us to go into the vulnerable places inside to face and to let go of what we find, to leave the God we know and meet a God we don't know and can't possibly imagine." (Ryan Kuja, *The Desert is a Place of Great Undoing*)*

8. John's teaching exposed the hearts of his followers. How does John's attack on externals, and religious hypocrisy cause you to think differently about your life? Consider your dreams, goals, and planning for your future.
9. How might your community group support you on this journey through Mark to answer the question, "Who is Jesus?"