

## “John, the Forerunner”

September 14, 2025 Pastor Todd McAllister

Mark 1:2-8

**Introduction:** Forerunner--someone who goes ahead to prepare the way for another person of greater significance or who enters a place to make it accessible for others.

Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3

Context: Divided nation under Roman rule

Soldiers; tax collectors

Zealots

Liberal Sadducees; conservative Pharisees

The \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ by God (Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3)

\_\_\_\_\_ - Clothing: camel's hair, leather belt

- Food: locusts, wild honey

\_\_\_\_\_ - I am not worthy.

\_\_\_\_\_ - Deliverer of God's message (Mark 1:4-7)

“He said, therefore, to the crowds that came out to be baptized by Him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’” (Luke 3:7)

The \_\_\_\_\_

“John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (Mark 1:4)

\_\_\_\_\_

Baptism = identification

(continued on other side)

## “John, the Forerunner” (continued)

The foolishness of preaching

Jews demand signs.

Greeks seek wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Romans look for action (immediately).

The \_\_\_\_\_

Repentance

Change your \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of sins (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:10-14)

He who is \_\_\_\_\_ than Me

I am unworthy to be His servant.

He will baptize with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:7-8).

He must increase, but I must decrease (John 3:30).  
(Magnify the Messiah)

### Responses:

⇒ Has the way been prepared for Christ in your life?

⇒ How are you responding to this preparation?

⇒ In what ways are you experiencing “He must increase but I must decrease?”

⇒ How are you involved in preparing the way for Christ in the lives of people around you?  
(Announce the good news.)

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The **Man**

**Called** by God (Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3)

**Simplicity** - Clothing: camel's hair, leather belt  
- Food: locusts, wild honey

**Humility** - I am not worthy.

**Courage** - Deliverer of God's message (Mark 1:4-7)

“He said, therefore, to the crowds that came out to be baptized by Him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’” (Luke 3:7)

The **Method**

“John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (Mark 1:4)

**Baptizing**

Baptism = identification

(continued on other side)

## **“John, the Forerunner” (continued)**

### **Proclaiming**

The foolishness of preaching

Jews demand signs.

Greeks seek wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Romans look for action (immediately).

The **Message**

Repentance

Change your **thinking**

**Forgiveness** of sins (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:10-14)

He who is **mightier** than Me

I am unworthy to be His servant.

He will baptize with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:7-8).

He must increase, but I must decrease (John 3:30).  
(Magnify the Messiah)

### **Responses:**

⇒ Has the way been prepared for Christ in your life?

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