

Mark 1:1-8 – The Ministry of John the Baptist, Part 2

Introduction

1. John's Role: Preparatory to the Revelation of the Messiah
2. John's Ministry: Preaching and Baptism
3. John's Preaching: Repentance for the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand
4. John's baptism of the Jews demonstrated they needed to repent as much as the Gentiles
5. Repentance and Faith are different sides of the same coin

Main Truth: The central focus of the Gospels is Jesus. John the Baptist and Jesus preached repentance from sins. Repentance involves true transformation of the mind, heart, and will. When a sinner repents, he or she is forgiven of ALL their Sins.

Jesus is the Central Focus of Mark's Gospel (vv 1, 7-8)

1. The Gospel concerns Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God
2. Four times Jesus is called the Son of God – Here, 2 Demonic Spirits, and the Centurion at the Cross
3. John made Jesus central
 - a. John is the Voice, Jesus is the Word
 - b. John is the Messenger, Jesus is the Message
 - c. John is the Bridegroom, Jesus is the Groom
 - d. John is the Pointer, Jesus is the Point
4. John's Ministry pointed to Jesus – toward the Savior
5. Ministry is about Jesus, not You and your preferences
6. Ministry is about seeing the One who is Mightier, More Powerful, and able to Save

God Promised John in the Old Testament (vv 2-3, 5)

1. God prepared and foreordained that John the Baptist would exist and bring forth God's Message
2. John, filled with the Holy Spirit from His mother's womb
3. John is God's man, representative to prime people to be ready for the King
4. Isaiah and the Prophets predicted John would arrive to begin the Gospel of Christ
5. John was popular in Judea, and His message was simple: Repentance for the Forgiveness of Sins

John/Jesus' Preaching: Repentance & the Forgiveness of Sins (v 4)

1. John preached what Jesus would preach, along with the other disciples
2. Jesus preached repentance to begin His ministry (**Mt 4:17**)
 - a. The Sheep of God hear and Respond
 - b. The Sheep turn away from Sin to Jesus Christ
 - c. Jesus defines those within the Kingdom (**Mt 5:3-6**)
3. Repentance involves a Change of Mind – *poor in Spirit*
 - a. Humility, lowly, inferior to the King, fall short of God's grandeur and glory
4. Repentance involves a Change of Heart – *Those who mourn*
 - a. The repentant grieve over their sin
 - b. The know their sin killed Jesus
5. Repentance involves a Change of Will – *gentleness, meekness, hunger and thirst for righteousness*
 - a. Submissive Humility – Meekness – Faithful Obedience
 - b. Thirst for Righteousness produced by the Holy Spirit
6. To enter through the Narrow Gate into the Kingdom of God, one must Repent of Sin
7. The Unrepentant fall under God's Judgment (**Mt 11:21-22**)
8. Jesus came to call the Sinner to Repentance, to Seek and to Save the Lost (**Luke 5:32, 19:10**)
9. Repentance is a *GIFT* from God (**Acts 11:18, 2 Tim 2:24-25**)
10. If God does not give repentance, one cannot repent (**Heb 12:17**)
11. Repentance is a Grace from God to the Sinner, which breaks the stronghold of Sin and turns the eyes by faith to Jesus
12. Repentance is Impossible for the Sinful Human Nature to Accomplish because:
 - a. There is a strong Attachment to the things of this World
 - b. There is no Devotion to the Lord; Discontentment
 - c. There is the presence of Fear; They will "lose" something if they come to Jesus
13. Repentance is accompanied by God's Forgiveness of Sin
 - a. Forgiveness is a Cancellation of Debt
 - b. Forgiveness Releases from Guilt and Punishment
 - c. Forgiveness Removes the Obligation to Pay back the Debt
 - d. ALL Sins are Taken Away – Every SIN!
14. Forgiveness of Sin is made possible by the Substitutionary Atonement of Jesus Christ on the Cross
15. The Response of the Sinner: Turn to Jesus Christ for the Forgiveness of Sin