

## Calling All Way-makers

Jonathan Landis

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### Mark 1:1-8 NIV

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

[2] 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 desert,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.' "

**God Raised Up a MESSENGER before Christ's coming.**

**John was sent by GOD (vs. 2)**

No one can testify of Jesus Christ on their own. Everyone who shares the truth of Christ is sent of God. John was no exception. God allowed John's mother (Elizabeth) to become pregnant, even in her old age. His ultimate plan was for Jesus Christ to come and to become the sacrifice for the sins of the people. We know that Jesus death brings our freedom.

But God sent a way-maker. John the Baptist. Who was to prepare the way for Christ's ministry... and ultimate sacrifice.

**WE are sent by GOD.**

Jesus is returning soon... but before He does, the Gospel has to be preached across the world.

**Matthew 24:14 NIV**

[14] And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

God wants to give every nation a chance to know Jesus Christ. His mercy and love for all mankind is what makes Him postpone his return. He's waiting until WE PREPARE THE WAY!!!

God is raising up a "JOHN THE BAPTIST" generation to be WAY-MAKERS for Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

Let's take a look at John's message... so we know what our message should be.

## **John's Message**

### **Mark 1:4 NIV**

[4] And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and 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 will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. [8] I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### **John preached REPENT**

Repentance means a change of heart and mind. When we repent, we turn away from the evil we've been doing, and turn towards God and His way... the way of holiness and truth. Some of us need to repent. We need to admit our own wrongdoing and turn toward God.

**We are also called to PREACH REPENTANCE.** How are people going to know they are headed to hell, if we don't tell them? How will people find Jesus Christ, unless He's presented to them? We

have got to show the truth, and tell it like it is. John boldly proclaimed that people were in sin, but could find forgiveness in repentance. **Preach repentance.**

**(vs. 7 and 8) John Preached that Christ Was the Answer, Not John.**

We can't change a single life. Christ changes lives. All we can do is point them to Christ... and show them a better way.

**I believe that this is a John the Baptist generation. I believe Christ is returning soon, and before He does... He needs some WAY-MAKERS.**

**God is calling out to us. WHERE are MY "JOHN THE BAPTISTS?" HE SAYS, "WHERE ARE MY WAY-MAKERS?"**

**My answer to God is this?**

**"HERE I AM, USE ME!!! LET ME BE A WAYMAKER!"**

**Is your answer the same??? Will you be a way-maker!?"**

**If you will join this cause then stand up and say...**

**"HERE I AM, USE ME!!! LET ME BE A WAYMAKER!"**

**Altar:**

**Don't forget - repentance...**