

Reflection Questions: Have I felt my need of Jesus and repented? Have I placed my faith in Him and received the Holy Spirit? How do I know? What fruit is the Spirit producing in my life right now? How, like John, can I point people to Jesus?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

We need not wonder that the sufferings of one Person were a sufficient propitiation for the sin of a world, when we remember that He who suffered was "the Son of God."

J.C. Ryle

God is characteristically a God who is working His purposes out. History is not a random kaleidoscope of disconnected events; it is a process directed by the God who sees the end in the beginning.

William Barclay

As the Christ He was special in what He did, but as God's Son He is unique in who He is. He is, in fact, not only human but divine.

Geoffrey Grogan

A son is of the same nature and essence as a father; in affirming Jesus as His Son, God the Father was saying that Jesus, His Son, is deity because He is of the same essence as the Father.

Paul Enns

When you worship, you are saying, "This one is worth more." At the same time you are implying, "I am worth less." Worship is the magnification of God and the minimization of self. One of the most succinct expressions of a worshipper's heart in all the New Testament came from John the Baptist: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

James MacDonald

John the Baptist never performed any miracles. Yet, he was greater than any of the Old Testament prophets.

Leonard Ravenhill

God's direct response to true repentance is forgiveness.

Frank E. Gaebelein



The Beginning of the Gospel

Sermon
Notes

January 16, 2022

1. The Purpose (1)

2. The Preparer (2-8)

A. The Ministry of John (4-5)

B. The Appearance of John (6)

C. The Message of John (7-8)

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?

2. Read *Mark 1:1*. What is *the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God*?

3. How would you define the gospel? Is it a biblical definition?

4. Mark seems to be saying the gospel started with John the Baptist (*Mark 1:1-8*). Why?

5. How did John *prepare* the way for Jesus (*Mark 1:2-3*)?

6. How did Jesus describe John in *Luke 7:28*?

7. Why was John's witness so effective (*Mark 1:5*; cf. *Matthew 3:5*; *Luke 3:7, 12, 14*; *John 1:19*)?

8. What was John's message (*Mark 1:4, 7-8*)?

9. What is *a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins* (*Mark 1:4*)?

10. Is there a connection between preparing the way for the Lord and *repentance for the forgiveness of sins*? If so, what is it?

11. How are repentance and humility related?

12. What is biblical repentance? Use Scripture in your answer.

13. Why was it important that John let people know the One following him was greater than he was (*Matthew 3:11*; *Mark 1:7-8*; *Luke 3:16*; *John 1:19-20, 27*; *3:25-26*; *Acts 13:25*)?

14. What do these passages tell us about John?

Matthew 3:14 —

Luke 3:7-14 —

Luke 1:15 —

John 3:30 —

Luke 1:26-41 —

15. Read *Matthew 11:1-19*. What question does John have for Jesus?

What is Jesus' answer?

What does Jesus tell us about John?

16. Read *John 1:29-34*. What does John testify about Jesus?

Why does John use the term *Lamb of God*?