

## ***“The Non-Disciple Disciple”***

***Mark 1:2–8***

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### **Background**

Join us on Sunday as we jump into week 2 of our sermon series, “Jesus is Good News”. This week we’ll look at Mark 1:2–8. Here we’ll see John the Baptist’s preparation for the ministry of Jesus through the preaching and performing of a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Please read and pray through Mark 1:1–8 prior to Sunday. Pay attention to the specific actions and things that John the Baptist is doing in this passage and keep an eye out for what the Spirit might be asking you to do in response. See you Sunday!

### **Sermon Text *Mark 1:2–8***

*<sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:*

*“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—*

*<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”*

*<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **1. Preparation**

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

#### **2. Sunday Questions:**

## 1. Obedience to God's Call

John the Baptist *“was obedient to the specific call that God placed on his life”* and the sermon challenges us to discern both God's **general** and **specific** calls.

**Question: Where in your life do you sense God inviting you into obedience—either in His general call (love God, love others, make disciples) or in a more specific, personal calling? What helps you discern the difference?**

## 2. Repentance as a Way of Life

The sermon emphasizes that John *“very intentionally called people to repentance and confession of sin,”* and that Christians should cultivate this habit personally and communally.

**Question: How comfortable are you with confession—both confessing your own sin and lovingly helping others confront theirs? What fears or barriers make repentance difficult, and how might the Spirit be inviting you to grow?**

## 3. Humility and Sacrifice

John models humility: *“He must become greater; I must become less.”* His life was marked by sacrifice, rejection, and courage.

**Question: What does genuine humility look like in your daily life? Where might God be calling you to “become less” so that Christ becomes greater in you?**

## 4. Preparing the Way for Jesus

The sermon notes that John's role *“foreshadows a general call to all disciples... to prepare the way for the entry of Jesus into the hearts and lives of people.”*

**Question: In your relationships, workplaces, or communities, what does it look like to “prepare the way” for Jesus today? What practices help you bear witness to Him through both words and actions?**

## 5. Life in the Spirit

The sermon climaxes with Mark 1:8: *“I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”* The preacher says this is the **most significant verse** because discipleship is impossible without the Spirit's empowerment.

**Question: Where do you most need the empowering work of the Holy Spirit right now in order to live as a disciple—obedience, repentance, humility, courage, or something else? How might you open yourself more fully to His work?**