

100 Days of Prayer

PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE LORD

WEEK 2 (Feb 1 - 7)

A Weekly Guide for 100 days of Praying to Prepare the Way for the Lord

Starting on January 25th, 2023 (Day 1), Culminating on May 4th, 2023 (Day 100)

KEY VERSES FOR THE WEEK: Matthew 3:1-6 (NIV)

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

REFLECTION:

John the Baptist's life assignment was to prepare for the Lord's coming. How did this calling shape the way he lived his life?

One hint is found in the prophetic statement that he was "A voice calling out in the wilderness." John was no palace-bound prophet or a mere orator at a school of higher learning. He was a man of the wilderness.

Now, the wilderness normally is not a safe place. It is a place of dangers, discomfort, and loneliness. It, by no means, produces an easy life. But, it can refine those who fully consecrate themselves to God.

A big part of preparing the way for the Lord begins with setting yourself apart for God's plans, no matter the cost or discomfort. It requires intentional commitment. It takes a willingness to endure suffering and do hard things. It calls for a gritty faith that trusts God unflinchingly, even when the sand and sun dig into your eyes.

John embraced consecration. He grew up accustomed to the desert. He wore rough animal skins. He ate bugs and raw honey. This was John's training ground and main battlefield. It may be full of hardships, yet he welcomed it.

For John knew he had a message worth telling, even in the midst of the most barren of places.

This week, consider this: Have you set yourself apart for the purposes of God? Will you consecrate your life for Him? Will you do so, even when things get tough?

PRAYER POINTS:

Use these suggested prayer items as a starting point for where the Holy Spirit will lead you...

1. Praise God that He is holy, mighty, loving and worthy of all we are
2. Pray that we would consecrate ourselves to follow our Lord with all our heart
3. Pray for the courage to enter into whatever wilderness we may encounter as we pursue His plans for revival
4. Pray for God's grace to grow deeper in our character and our perseverance each day
5. Pray for faithfulness to proclaim boldly the Good News of the Kingdom and of salvation through Jesus Christ

FOR MORE INFO ON THESE GUIDES:

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