**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr February 21, 2021**

**Prepare The Way Of The Lord**

Mark 1:1-11

**The Author and Purpose of Mark’s Gospel:**

1. Mark was a disciple of Barnabas and Peter. Acts 13:6, 13,

 Acts 15:36-41, 1 Peter 5:13

2. Mark’s Gospel is not a biography but was written to

 Gentile Romans to proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God.

**What Is The Gospel?**

1. The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ, the Son of

 God came for you. 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

2. The gospel is still as relevant today as it was in Mark’s

 day.

**Lessons We Can Learn:**

1. In regard to Mark; it’s not how you start in ministry but

 how you finish. Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11

2. As Christians; we are called to be ambassadors for Jesus

 Christ.

1. The goal is always leading people follow Jesus Christ. John 1:35-42

3. Our lives and ministry don’t fit into the patterns of this

 world. Romans 3:23-26

4. Jesus Christ is still the answer to humanity’s greatest

 need.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for the example of John the Baptist’s ministry. Pray that we would understand and trust Jesus’ as Savior. Commit to faithfully following Him.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Which is more stressful for you—preparing for a long journey or returning home from a long journey? Explain.

Read Luke 3:19-20: Eventually, John’s “street preaching” landed him in prison. What do we learn about John the Baptist from this passage?

Read Luke 1:76-79. What did Zechariah prophesy, or tell in advance, about his son in that passage?

How do you see John the Baptist fulfilling his father’s words in Mark 1?

How does this relate to what we read about John the Baptist in John 1:6-9?

Read Mark 1:4-5: What message did John preach?

What does it mean to repent? How would you explain your experience of repentance to an unbeliever?

Why do Christians, even though we are saved, need to live a lifestyle of repenting daily?

What do we miss if we fail to turn toward God and only turn away from sin? Are we in danger of turning toward ourselves if we don’t turn to God?

Read Mark 1:9-11: Why was Jesus baptized, even though He didn’t need to repent of His sins? Why is baptism an important symbol of your commitment to God?