





The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

MARK 1:1-11 (NRSV)



Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

MARK 1:1-11 (NRSV)



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Euangelion
εὐαγγέλιον

GREEK TRANSLATION:

"good news" or "gospel"



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Euangelos
Εὐαγγέλιον
"Announcing news"



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Euangelos
Εὐαγγέλιον
"Joyful" "Announcing news"



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Euangelos
Εὐαγγέλιον
"Joyful" "Announcing news"

Gospel

means "news that brings joy"



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Gospel

wasn't just used in reflection of Jesus. It meant "history-making, life shaping news" – as opposed to just daily news.



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Jesus comes with NEWS ...not ADVICE.



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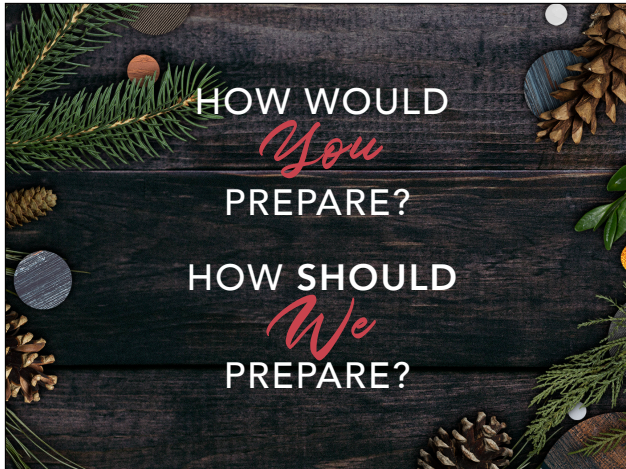
MARK 1:2-6 (NRSV)

Mark is...

telling us that John the Baptist is
the fulfillment of Isaiah 40.

John the Baptist was
preparing a way for the Lord.











Three
SIMPLE THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO THIS
YEAR TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

2

Change a bad habit

It's not good enough to simply ask for forgiveness. We need to repent. We need to proactively stop doing what doesn't please the Lord.



Three
SIMPLE THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO THIS
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3

Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

ROMANS 8:5 (NIV)



Remember This

If God cares for something as silly as a parking spot at the mall – how much more does he care about the things that really matter?



THE
Christmas
GOSPEL

PART 2:
PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS
