



## SERMON OUTLINE

### NOTES

#### *I. A PROPHECY OF PREPARATION (MALACHI 3:1)*

- A. The people were sinful, unjust, and blaming God (Malachi 2:17; Zechariah 7:4-11)
- B. God Himself is coming to bring good news (Isaiah 61:1-2; Zechariah 9:9) and to enact justice (Malachi 3:1-2, 5)
- C. A message will be sent crying out to prepare for the Lord (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; 4:5)

#### *II. GOD AND HIS MESSENGER ARRIVE (MARK 1:1-8)*

- A. Who is this messenger? (Mark 1:1-30)
  - 1. The opening of Mark cites the prophecy of preparation
  - 2. John the Baptist is the first person identified (Mark 1:40)
- B. How was the way prepared? (Mark 1:4-8)
  - 1. By proclaiming forgiveness from sins (Mark 1:4-5)
  - 2. By preaching about Jesus the Christ (Mark 1:6-8)
- C. If John is the messenger, then Jesus is God who brings good news (Matthew 11:2-10, 13-15)
  - 1. Jesus confirms the identity of John as the messenger (Matthew 11:9-10, 13-14)
  - 2. John confirms Jesus identity as God Himself who brings good news and justice (Luke 3:15-18; John 1:29-34)
  - 3. Jesus bears witness that He has come to preach good news (Luke 4:16-21)

#### *III. ADVENT SEASON IS TO COMMEMORATE, BUT ALSO ANTICIPATE (2 CORINTHIANS 4:6-5:10)*

- A. Our time between the advents is filled with momentary afflictions that prepare us for the eternal glory (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
  - 1. We experience enmity and tribulation (Genesis 3:15; John 16:33)
  - 2. But through all that God prepares for us glory (2 Corinthians 4:16-17)
  - 3. As we look to eternal things (2 Corinthians 4:18)
- B. God prepares us for fullness of life and guarantees it by the Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:1-6)
- C. As a result, we live courageously, by faith, and always seeking to please Him (2 Corinthians 5:7-10)

#### *IV. COMMUNION IS A TIME TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ADVENT WHILE LONGING FOR THE SECOND ADVENT (1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26)*

## SERMON REFLECTIONS

### *MALACHI 3:1*

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming; says the Lord of hosts.

### *MARK 1:1-3*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

### *2 CORINTHIANS 5:9*

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

1. What were the people of God like when His coming was being prophesied in the Old Testament? Are there any similarities between God's people then and now?
2. What role did John the Baptist play in fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies of the first advent? Why is it so important that Jesus confirmed that John was the fulfillment of these things? (See Matthew 11:9-10, 13-14)
3. How does looking to the second advent help us to persevere through this time between the advents?
4. Do you find yourself longing for the second advent when you share in communion? Why or why not?
5. How do we prepare for the second coming of Jesus? What kind of message should we be sharing with our neighbors in this time between the advents?