

**Prepare The Way**  
**Escape to Egypt**  
**12/14/19**  
**Newport News Campus**

## Opening

-new series entitled "Prepare The Way"

## Introduction

-Matthew 3:1-3

- Who is Matthew...
- Set the time line...
- Who is John the Baptist... (cousin/400 years no prophet)
- What is John the Baptist's purpose...

-Explain historical context of "Prepare The Way"

- Kings visiting far away lands
- The work they did...
- The time it took...
- The expense required...

***-Jesus is our King, traveling from Heaven to be with us, to rescue us, to save us! And John the Baptist is reminding us that the work of preparing our hearts for His arrival is no small task!***

(he compares it to mountains, valleys, crooked and rough roads...changing the geography of the heart!)

-Matthew 3:2 is how we Prepare The Way...

- Repent of your sins... (tonight)
- Turn to God... (28<sup>th</sup>)  
*(Too many people looking for a church home seek a community that makes them feel right instead of one challenging them to be righteous)*
- The Kingdom of Heaven is near... (21<sup>st</sup>)  
*(Just because the Kingdom of Heaven is near, doesn't mean you don't have to travel far to get there!)*

-The 3 remarkable journeys...

- **Escape to Egypt - repent of your sins**
- **The Maigi - the Kingdom of Heaven is near**
- **Return to Nazareth - turn to God**

*-This series is for everyone, even if Jesus already arrived in your life years before when you made a vow of devotion to Him. All of us have areas of our lives where we are reluctant for Jesus to have full authority...and God says to you and to me: "Prepare The Way!"*

### **Escape to Egypt**

-Matthew 2:13-16

- The death of the innocent
- For the salvation of another
- Verses 17 and 18

-These families are heroes in Heaven, not forsaken by God...they carried the weight of this prophetic picture!

-Jesus, the Innocent...died for our own escape!!!!

-Romans 5:8 & Hebrews 4:15 - ref.

- **Jesus is the prophetic picture of mankind!!!**
- **Israel is...life with God!**
- **Egypt is...life in bondage to sin!**

-Romans 3:23 - quote

-Romans 6:23 - quote

***-The escape of Jesus' family to Egypt illustrates for us the sinfulness of mankind and our need to prepare the way for Jesus in our own hearts by repenting of our sins.***

## What Is Repentance?

-Luke 17:3 (means person does not benefit from forgiveness until...)

-repentance means... (not just sorrow and regret)

- **Acknowledgement**
- **Confession**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Resolve**

-John 8:31-32 (NASB)

- **Continue: Giving Scripture authority over you.**
- **Know: Examining your life in light of Scripture.**
- **Free: Bringing your life in alignment with Scripture.**

-Are you preparing the way for Jesus?

## What Is Sin (4 questions)

-St. Augustine, "An utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law"

-Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin of **omission or commission?**

(James 4:17) – ref.

-Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin of **morality, conscience, or liberty?**

(Romans 13:8-14 and Romans 14) – ref.

-Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin that was **time bound?**

(Matthew 15:10-11,13) – read and explain "uprooted"

-Is \_\_\_\_\_ a sin that **leads to death?**

(1 John 5:17...venial vs. mortal) – ref.

*-If you ignore the complexity of something in an effort to simplify truth, you inevitably create the confusion you were trying to avoid.*

*-Any sin that is ever listed in Scripture with the stated consequence of spiritual death, eternal damnation, or the loss of Heaven as an inheritance...can never be time bound or a matter of conscience.*

(1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-5)

-Are you preparing the way for Jesus?

### **Band**

-So what do I do with all the remorse and regret and I feel for the mistakes that I have made, even after repenting?

*-Learn to recycle the residual refuse from your former sin to fuel the fire of purity in your future!*

### **Close**

-2 Thessalonians 1:11-12