



## Pastor Mike Hofere “Illuminate: Prepare The Way” 12/12/2021

### Key Verses:

- Matthew 3:1-12

### Key Thoughts:

- The Advent season is a celebration that Christ has come but also that he will come again. That means that we are not done preparing. We have a responsibility of preparedness as Christ followers.
- In John 14:1-3, Jesus says that he's going away to prepare a place for us and when everything is ready, he will come get us. If Jesus is preparing for us right now, we should also be preparing for him.
- John The Baptist was a prophet in the mold of the Old Testament prophets, and it was his purpose to prepare the way for Jesus to come.

### How We Can Prepare The Way:

1. *Repentance* – Matthew 3:2
  - Repentance prepares the way for Jesus into our lives.
  - Repent means to turn around. We can't confess and continue to do the things we've confessed, we have to go the other way.
2. *Draw people near* – Matthew 3:5
  - Are we prepared to draw people to Jesus?
  - This is not inviting people to church. John Wesley said, “I set myself on fire so people can watch me burn.” Do people see us on fire for God or look at us and want no part of who we are?
3. *Leaning on our legacy leaves us unprepared* – Matthew 3:9
  - Are you prepared to lay down your legacy for something new?
  - Some people believe they are right with God because they come to church every week, their parents were Christians, they tithe, or because they serve every week.
  - The only thing that is sufficient is a relationship with God.
4. *We are preparing for something real* – Matthew 3:12
  - How are you preparing yourself and your family each day?

### Discussion Questions:

- Are you the type of person that's typically overprepared or underprepared?
- Why was it necessary that John The Baptist (and other Old Testament prophets) prepared the way for Jesus?
- Which of the ways that we can prepare the way for Jesus do you need to work on most? Why?