

Sermon Notes

I Believe In Miracles: Part 6

March 27th-28st, 2021

- **I Believe In Miracles: Recap**
- Keeping first things first from **1 Corinthians 1:22-24**.
 - o When handled properly the deep spiritual and the deep intellectual are good!
- **Part 6: John the Baptist Prepares the Way**
- Holy Week: Palm Sunday is today!!, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Resurrection Sunday!!
 - o We are deviating a little bit from our theme. John the Baptist prepares the way!
- Who is John? Jesus' cousin and contemporary, had a baptism for repentance ministry, he baptized Jesus...and he was a bit of a strange guy. **Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:1-8**
 - o But John was the one called by God to prepare the way for Jesus and the New Covenant.
 - o To me, the miracle is that people followed John the Baptist!! Maybe that can happen today too!
- What was John's message?
 - o **Matthew 3:1-2**. Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.
 - o **Mark 1:7-8**. Believe in the one to come who will baptize in the Holy Spirit.
 - o Let's start with "Repent for..."
 - God is about to do something cool, so get your heart right and you'll get to be part of it!
 - Old Testament Hebrew word means "to turn back" to God.
 - New Testament Greek word means "to meta consider" your life...and choose to follow God.
 - Repentance is what prepares the way for the Lord in your heart.
 - This message was so important that Jesus preached it when John was imprisoned. **Matt 4:17**
- What was John's purpose?
 - o John was there to lead people to Jesus.
 - John was very "Kingdom Minded." He made personal sacrifices for Jesus. **John 1:35-37**
 - Why would John do this? Because he believed **Luke 4:16-21!**
 - This is essential for us as Christians as well, to lead people to Jesus.
 - Use your gifts, time, and resources, even sacrificially, to help people know Jesus.
- John the Baptist was very different from the Pharisees.
 - o The Pharisees were about themselves, what they wanted, and their own power. **John 11:43-48**
 - They didn't care about the plan of Salvation, they cared about themselves.
 - o Main Point: Yucky hearted religious people push others away from Jesus. **Matthew 23:13**
 - We don't need mean spirited believers who only think about themselves.
 - o Who do you want to be like? John the Baptist or the Pharisees? Who are you actually like?
 - o What is the solution? Repentance, but then also **Mark 1:7-8**. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Not a prideful spirit, resentful spirit, angry spirit, selfish spirit, etc.
 - Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit. **Galatians 5:22-23**
 - o If you want to make a difference for Jesus don't go on an angry social media rant. It doesn't help.
 - You may think you are standing up for Jesus, but you probably aren't.
 - o Instead:
 - Live for Christ and his cause, not yourself. Purpose.
 - Learn his ways and live by them. Obedience. **2 Timothy 2:23-25**
 - Lead people to Jesus through service and witness. Productivity.
 - Replace the social media rant with personal witness to someone who needs Jesus.
 - o "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near" and "Jesus will baptize in the Holy Spirit."
 - God is about to do something cool, so get your heart right and you'll get to be part of it.
 - o Step one: Come to Jesus in the first place. Jesus offers this to absolutely anyone, including you.
 - Repentance leads to forgiveness leads to Holy Spirit and living for Christ.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.