

The Parts God Calls Us to Play:  
John the Baptist—*Preparing the Way*  
Matthew 3:1-17

**PREPARE THE WAY BY  
BEING OUT OF STEP WITH THE WORLD**

- A. People are drawn to John because his life is different.
- B. We prepare the way of the Lord when our lives are set apart for God.

*Who has what we really want?*

**PREPARE THE WAY BY LETTING YOUR VOICE BE HEARD**

*(Verse 3b) "A voice of one calling in the desert,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for  
him.'"*

- A. Sometimes a voice of challenge must be heard before the Lord comes.
- B. Other times a voice of comfort must be heard for the Lord to come.
- C. Every time, a voice of witness must be heard for the Lord to come.

**PREPARE THE WAY BY POINTING BEYOND YOURSELF**

*(Verse 11) "I baptize you with water for repentance. But  
after me will come one who is more powerful than I,  
whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you  
with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

*(John 1:36) "Look, the Lamb of God!"*

**PREPARE THE WAY BY ANSWERING CHRIST'S CALL,  
EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'RE UNWORTHY**

**A. John is willing to baptize Jesus, though he knows he is unworthy.**

*(Verse 14) But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"*

*{Verse 15} Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.*

**B. Though you know you are unworthy, Jesus is calling you to do holy things for Him.**

*We can prepare the way of the Lord, if we will play the part.*