

Prepare ye the way of the LORD

Read Isaiah 40:1-5, Mark 1:1-5

“Prepare **YE** the way of the LORD”

The scripture commands us that we need to prepare the way of the Lord. Isn't that interesting? There's something we're suppose to do in order to prepare the way of the Lord.

Notice in Isaiah 40:2, God declares that her iniquity is pardoned. Before the call to prepare the way of the Lord God declares that he has forgiven a people of their sins. In order to make the necessary preparations, you need to understand and believe that God has forgiven you of all trespasses and sins (1 John 2:12, Colossians 2:13-14).

Isaiah 40:3

We are told to prepare the way of the Lord. How do we do that? Mark 1:4-5 tells us. We need to repent and confess our sins. This is essential to make straight a highway for God. God desires to walk in us (2 Corinthians 6:16-18) and in order for him to do so we need to make HIS paths straight. In other words, we need to make things right between us and God.

Preparing the way for the LORD:

Prepare to meet thy God (Amos 4:12)

Moses said he would make God a habitation (Exodus 15:2).

God commended Jehoshaphat for preparing his heart to seek God (2 Chronicles 19:3)

Sanctification/holiness is required (Joshua 3:8, 2 Chronicles 29:5)

- sanctification requires repentance and there is a difference between repentance and sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10)

- true repentance is coupled with fruits and works (Luke 3:7-14; Acts 26:16-20; Acts 19:17-20).

Reading and meditating upon the word is required, doing it, then teaching it (Ezra 7:10)

Purge yourself of false doctrine, don't sin, do right, hang out with other disciples of Christ (2 Timothy 2:21-22)

Isaiah 40:4

Everything that is low shall be exalted and everything that is high shall be brought low (Matthews 23:12, 1 Peter 5:5-6). When you prepare the way of the Lord you become humbled and God will exalt you in due time. When you think you are something, God resists you and abases you (Romans 12:3).

And the crooked shall be made straight...

When you decide to prepare room for God and give him a straight path to walk in, he straightens out you! Praise God! (Isaiah 42:6). Weren't there some crooked things about you before you were saved? Hasn't God helped you straighten out?

His blood cleanses your conscience (Hebrews 9:13-14; 10:22)

1 John 1:7 – When we are walking in the light, his blood cleanses us from all sin
Hebrews

And the rough places plain ...

He can and will straighten out your rough edges if you prepare the way of the Lord and get things right with God.

Isaiah 40:5

Why is this all done? That the glory of the LORD may be revealed. You want to see God? Without holiness you won't see him (Hebrews 12:14); without a pure heart, you won't see him (Matthew 5:8).

In Conclusion:

*The consequence of not preparing the way of the Lord (2 Chronicles 12:14)
- Beaten with stripes (Luke 12:47)

2 Corinthians 7:1