

WEEK 2

WORTHY!

A Global Call to Prepare the Way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE TEXT
Mark 1:1-8

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way—a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

—Mark 1:2-3 NIV

Introduction: A Global Gospel Begins

Mark opens his Gospel with a declaration: this is the beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. But this good news doesn’t begin in a palace or among the elite — it begins in the wilderness, with a prophet named John, calling people to prepare.

John’s message was local, but its implications were global. He was preparing the way for the One who would bring salvation not just to Israel, but to every tribe, tongue, and nation.

From Water to Spirit: A Shift with Global Impact

John says, “I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” This marks a turning point in history. John’s baptism was symbolic—a call to repentance. But Jesus’ baptism is transformational—a call to new life empowered by the Spirit.

This shift is not just theological; it’s missional. The Spirit Jesus gives is not confined to one people or place. It is poured out on all flesh (Joel 2:28), empowering the global Church to carry the message of salvation to the ends of the earth.

John’s Humility, Jesus’ Supremacy

John says, “I am not worthy to untie his sandals.” This isn’t self-deprecation; it’s recognition. John knows that his ministry, as powerful as it is, pales in comparison to the mission of Jesus.

In the same way, **our ministries — no matter how fruitful — are only worthy when they point to Jesus.** Whether we serve in a village or a city, in a pulpit or a refugee camp, our calling is to prepare the way for the Lord.

The Global Need for Repentance and Transformation

John's baptism called people to change their behavior:

- Share with those in need.
- Be honest in business.
- Reject exploitation and injustice.

These are not just personal ethics — they are global values. In every culture, repentance must lead to justice, generosity, and integrity. But Jesus goes further. He doesn't just call for change; He empowers it through the Holy Spirit.

This is the heart of the global cause of Christ:

- Not just forgiveness, but transformation.
- Not just rituals, but Spirit-filled living.
- Not just local revival, but global redemption.

From Maintenance to Mission

Too many live under a “maintenance repentance” — constantly cycling through guilt and forgiveness. But Jesus came to break that cycle. He came to set us free, to fill us with His Spirit, and to send us into the world as agents of His kingdom.

Paul writes in Romans 8:

“Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”

This freedom is not just for personal peace — it's for global purpose. The Spirit empowers us to live holy lives and to carry the message of hope to every corner of the earth.

Application: Preparing the Way Globally

- **Missionaries:** You are preparing the way in cultures that have never heard the name of Jesus.
- **Pastors:** You are equipping your people to live Spirit-filled lives that impact their communities.
- **Lay Leaders:** You are preparing the way in your workplace, your neighborhood, your family.
- **Advocates:** You are preparing the way by confronting injustice and lifting up the oppressed.

Wherever you are, you are part of the global cause of Christ. You are preparing the way for the Lord.

Conclusion: He Is Worthy

Jesus is worthy — not just of our worship, but of our whole lives. He is worthy of our obedience, our sacrifice, our mission. He is worthy of being proclaimed in every language and lifted up in every land.

Let us live not just in repentance, but in transformation. Let us serve not just locally, but globally. Let us proclaim not just forgiveness, but freedom.

He is worthy. Let the world know.