

Refrigerator Notes 04 December 2017  
"Making the Path Straight in Life"  
Matthew 3:1-12

1. I had three questions that needed to be asked: The first question was "Why does Jesus need anyone to prepare the way for Him?"
2. Our answer is found in Luke 1:16-17 "...turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God"
3. Reading and hearing that text, you might picture a John the Baptist as a seer of the OT, who could turn the hearts and inspire the wisdom of those he encounter - to get ready, to prepare the way for Jesus
4. My second question was "Why does God choose people like John to prepare the way?"
5. Better put, why does God need us to prepare the way for the returning of our Lord?
6. As Christians, we are called to make disciples in the world
7. How does John's character depicts how to make straight the path by being bold?
8. I provided a number of reasons why John's character was needed:
  - John is preaching in the desert, of all places in the middle of nowhere and yet God does not ask us or send us in the middle of nowhere. God provides the fishing ponds near our hearts. Our job is to catch them and do nothing more (no killing of the fish or scaling the fish).
9. • John appears wearing strange clothes, made out of camel's hair. God ask us to come as we are to do the job. No special dress or skills required, just come as you are.
10. • John is found eating insects for food; where God has already provided us the spiritual nourishment that is needed to salivate on.
11. • John the Baptist's idea of making a straight path means calling the leaders of that day "broods of vipers" and telling people it doesn't matter who their daddy is. God is not asking us to curse out anyone (to remove any obstacles out of our way). If we are willing to prepare the way for our Lord, God will remove the obstacles that we encounter; but we must be willing to go like Isiah.
12. The third question needed to be ask was, "What type of path are you to make in life for others?"
13. Then I issued a challenge: Are you so politically correct and afraid to step on toes when there is chaos going on in the church? Does your rose-color lenses, even disposition, mask laden face present smiley face for Jesus? We are called to be debased servants and show humility, but even Jesus was persnickety about the cross we are called to bear and carry in life.
14. How are you going to carry your cross?
15. The road that we as Christians are called to pave is a straight road, but it's a hard road filled with pot holes, flying debris and sometimes crook-it lines and curves
16. The real question was "If people followed you, would you lead them to Christ?"