**2/12/23 Repentance is a Must! Mark 1:1-8**

As we allow God’s Word to minister to our hearts, we should make a self evaluation and begin to understand that there are some things that we need to repent and ask the Lord for forgiveness.

**1. Preparations need to happen first.**

* There are things in our lives that need to be set in order.
* First, we must realize that if we only see the faults in others and not see our own faults, we will never grow spiritually.
* God said “I am sending My messenger before you and he will prepare your way.
* For the Jews the wilderness served as a reminder of the place of preparation for entering the land of promise.

**Romans 3:23; Matt 3:1-3, 7:13-14;** **Mark 1:1-3; Isaiah 40:3; Luke 3:1-6**

**2. A change must happen.**

* The Jews had been taught by the religious leaders who looked a certain way, dressed a certain way and led the people a certain way, but God saw fit to send another type of messenger.
* John the Baptist lived in the wilderness and was preaching that people should be baptized for the remission of sins.
* John's act of baptism looks forward to the appearance of the One Who will bring that salvation.

**1 Corinthians 1:27; Mark 1:4; Exodus 19:10; Leviticus 14:8-9**

**3. When you have something of value, people will come from near and far!**

* People from Jerusalem and from all over Judea traveled out into the wilderness to see and hear John.
* John's unusual clothing reminds his audience of the great prophet Elijah.
* John reminded them that he would baptize them with water, but the One coming after him will baptize them with the Holy Ghost!
* While the average person will elevate and praise others as great leaders, teachers, athletes, etc., our task as believers is to point out the uniqueness of Jesus.

**Mark 1:5-8; 2 Kings 1:8; John 14:6; Acts 4:12**