

Preparing the Way
Matthew 3:1-12

Review:

1. The One we need to travel on the highway into our hearts is Christ – we must cast off all idolatry
2. We need to confess that without Christ we are in a desperate situation – we must cast off all complacency
3. There is no room in God’s roadway for obstacles – we must cast off all pride
4. The good news is that God has come to us in the Person and Work of Christ.

Go Further – Read Isaiah 40:1-31

1. What reasons does God give in verses 1 and 2 that His people should take comfort?
2. In verse 3, where does the voice of the one crying come? In what ways is your life or the world around you similar to this place?
3. What does the crying voice say needs to be done to prepare the way of the Lord?
4. What does verse 4 say will happen to the hills and the valleys? To what kinds of people or problems do you think these two kinds of places refer?
5. What does verse 5 say will be revealed? Who will get to see this?
6. What message does the voice bring in verses 6 and 7? How should this fact affect our priorities?
7. How does the contrast presented in verse 8 strengthen your faith?
8. What message does God want pronounced in verse 9? Why would this have been such good news to the people of Isaiah’s time? Why is this good news to you?
9. What things do verses 10-11 say God will do when He appears?
10. Starting in verse 12, Isaiah begins to compare God with all the false idols that so many other nations worship. How does verse 12 describe God’s power in creation?
11. How do verses 13 and 14 compare God’s wisdom with all who try to advise Him?
12. According to verses 15-17, how do all the nations compare to God’s power and glory?
13. How do verses 19 and 20 describe the false gods of the nations? Compared to verses 12-17, how impressive are these idols?
14. How do verses 21-23 compare God’s power with the most powerful people on earth?
15. What does verse 24 say about the impermanence of even the greatest of mankind?
16. What example of God’s power is given in verse 26? Why should modern people find this especially impressive?
17. What incorrect assumption do the people of Israel make in verse 27?
18. What does Isaiah tell the people about God in verse 28? Why should this reassure them? How does this truth reassure you?
19. What promises does Isaiah make to the people in verses 29-31?

Apply:

1. What kinds of things inspire fear in you? How does meditating on God’s power, wisdom, and glory help to put those fears into perspective?
2. Which of the promises of God that you find in this passage bring you the most comfort? Why?