

Series: Lessons from His Life
Making Much of Jesus
Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist was different. He did not quite fit into the culture of his day. While many would call him a misfit, he was a perfect fit for God's plans. Fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah he prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah. Because *He made so much of Jesus*, Christ revered him as the greatest of all the prophets! What a wonderful resolution for the New Year – making much of Jesus. Let's uncover the gems of John's life so we can *make much of Jesus* for the rest of our years. Isn't fitting into God's plans far more important than just fitting in?

I. Preparing the way for His Advent.

God called a prophet – “consumed”.

- His passion – “he preached...Jesus” (7)
- His purpose – “prepare the way of the Lord” (3)
- His profile – “clothed with camel's hair” (6)
- His pleasure – “Jesus...was baptized by John” (9)
- His pearl – “there has not risen one greater than John” (Mtt 11:11)

II. Preparing the way for His Acceptance.

God calls a person – “captivated”.

- The Savior – is our passion (Gal 2:20)
- His Story – is our purpose (Acts 1:8)
- A Servant – is our profile (1 Peter 2:9)
- His Service – is our pleasure (1 Peter 4:10)
- Our Significance – is our pearl (John 4:19)

III. Preparing the way for His Advance.

God chooses a people – “compelled”.

- The Church needs a Plan
- The Church needs Passion
 - Core Values
- The Church needs Participation

Application to our life: Is our church advancing His Kingdom? Are you doing all you can so our church can do all it should? Are you committed to *making much of Jesus* with your life?