

December 5, 2021
The Heart of Christmas
Matthew 3:1-12 and Isaiah 40:3-5
Preparation: Christmas and the Crazy Man

Preparing for Christmas can take forever. (vv. 1-3)

*“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matthew 3:1, 2).*

*“A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in
the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every
mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the
rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh
shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken’” (Isaiah 40:3-5).*

Preparing for Christmas can make crazy! (vv. 4-10).

*“Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist,
and his food was locusts and wild honey” (Matthew 3:4, 5).*

“No one will be offended if we tell that they are good people who could be a little better. The offense comes when we tell them that they – and we – are ungodly people who cannot impress God or escape His tribunal. Until...the law has exposed our hearts and God’s holiness at that profound level, [people] will never flee to Christ alone for safety even if they come to [Him] for advice” (Michael Horton, *The Gospel – Driven Life: Being Good News People in a Bad News World*).

**Preparing for Christmas gets you ready for the greatest moment ever!
(vv. 11-12)**

*“...he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to
carry...” (Matthew 3:11).*

*“And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with
God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall
call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign
over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end’” (Luke
1:30-33).*

