

1.3.A(2).Prepare for the Lord. Mark 1:2-3

Prepare yourself for the Lord and his way.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my **messenger** before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘**Prepare the way of the Lord**, make his paths straight,’” (Mark 1:2-3)

Background:

Kingdoms and Authority:

- The ruler of this world;

- Egypt as an Example
- Kingdom of Darkness/ Kingdom of God
- Comes in the name of the Lord: Jer. 30:9

Focus:

- Prepare:
- Way
- Lord

Consider:

In the past, God prophesied through the prophet Isaiah and called his Son, the coming Mashiach, “the Lord” (Mark 1:3). In the Scripture, God is called the “Lord” because he has the highest and unlimited authority over his creation. So, when God calls his Son “Lord,” he sends him to us with his own *name* and *authority*.

The radical thing for you to consider is that when Jesus Mashiach is raised up as the *Son of David*, he is born into our human family as one of us, a son among human sons and daughters. When you call on his name “Jesus,” he comes and relates to you person-to-person, so it is like calling on any other named person—he could have been called “George” or “Sam.” There is a personal nearness you have when you call on him, and you can walk with this great Mashiach, personally like any other.

Yet, this *Jesus* you call on, is also the Son of God, having the name and authority of your Creator, at the Head of all things. To walk with someone with great authority is *weighty*, to walk with the One with *all* authority is life-changing.

So, God cautions you, you must “prepare” yourself to walk with the *Lord Mashiach* in his

way, for we are twisted by our *wayward flesh*. We are all naturally *unprepared* for the Lord, because our first parents passed to us a dead nature, what the Bible calls our *naked flesh*—that is, a mortal life no longer *covered by God's breath*. Instead, our natural state in the flesh is *Godlessness*—to live in this world as our own “gods” and “lords,” as if the Lord God were an outsider, an intruder in what the *fleshly life* feels compelled to do. Truly, “nothing good lives in our flesh” (Romans) because the *fleshly life*, by nature, does “not submit to God” (Romans). Instead, like the dark Serpent promised, we seek to be “like God” in the flesh, to usurp his place of “Lordship” to replace him with our own Self-importance and Self-rule, defining “good” and “evil” for ourselves to produce our own “Self-Righteousness” and to find our own “Self-redemption” by our own genius,

whether through Law-keeping and Oral-Torah composing, or through a lawless morality of our own design.

If you are tempted to stay the course of your own *lordship*, know that this fleshly path leads only to death (Romans 6:23, 8:13)—cut off from God and his life, alienated, and alone.

But, if you want the *good new life* of spiritual abundance that Jesus Mashiach brings as the Son of God, you must unseat yourself as “Self-Lord” and let the Lord Jesus take his place in your life. Not as a puppet-ruler or an absentee landlord to whom you pay token homage.

Think of the story of crippled Mephibosheth before he met David. Outcast and homeless in far-flung *Lo-debar* (literally, “No Word”), he could have clung to his old name and entitlements, clinging to his few possessions under his own rule.

We too, when approached by the Lord Jesus, can cling to our meager things of earth, defending our own *rights* in our barren fiefdoms. Wisely, Mephibosheth did not resist the overwhelming call of the King but gave up his *futile rule to serve the King*.

Notice the proper and life-saving response to irresistible Lordship. When called, Mephibosheth answered, "Behold, I am your servant" (2 Samuel 9:6). By forsaking his old, dead life of Self-Rule, Mephibosheth was ready for the New Life which King David lavished on him, elevating him even to the highest place in the land, to dine at the King's table!

When the Lord Jesus Mashiach calls you to live with him in his Kingdom Family, yes, you will need to prepare yourself. You will need to abandon your old ways of living as the king of your own life,

ruling and clinging to the earthly trinkets you have acquired that death will eventually steal from you.

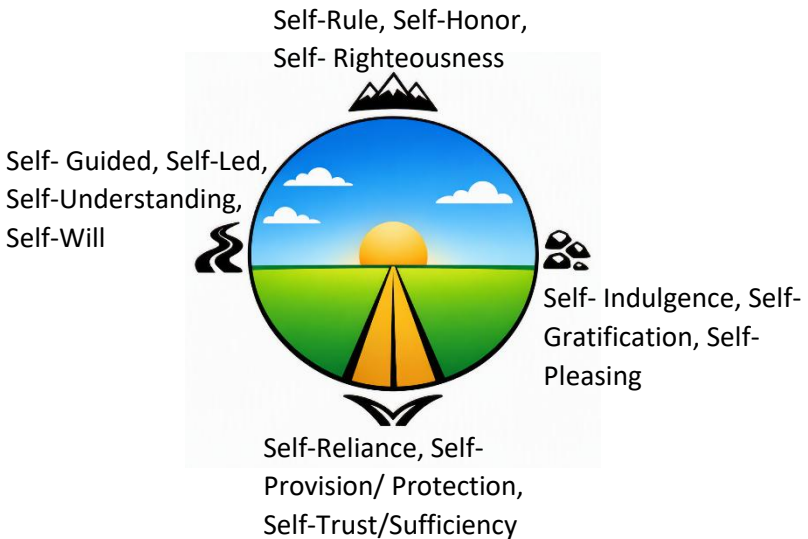
But, when you take the lowest place of surrender before the Lord, you now are ready for him to lavish upon you the abundance of new life. Not simply to enter a new realm of the Spirit. But, to take your place at the highest table in the Presence of God. Yes, you lay down your rule to become the Lord's servant, but you serve in the Household of God as a *reborn son*. You serve the Lord as the Lord of the House, as your kinsman who redeems you. You serve God not in anonymity and arcane ceremony, but as a son serving his Father. Like Jacob serving his father Isaac his favorite stew, you serve as one to inherit all of "heaven" and "earth" (Genesis 2:4).

Question:

⁴ 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**. ⁵ 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 40:4-5).

- What does it mean for Jesus to come in to your life as “Lord”?
- What are the benefits of having Jesus Mashiach as your Lord?

- What are the **areas of your life** which you need to prepare for the Lordship of Jesus Mashiach?



Further Discovery:

Colossians 2:6-7. Living with Jesus Mashiach as Lord.

Isaiah 61:1-3.

