



PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE GIFT

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— ³"a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

My favorite part of Christmas preparation:

God's Preparation Guidelines:

WHEN: Start early

WHO: God used John the Baptist - A truther

WHERE: In the desert

A. No distractions

B. Easier to realize our dependence

WHAT: repentance

HOW: With a spirit of humility

This Advent, to prepare to receive God's gift for me, I will: