

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 13th December 2020  
Sermon Title: Preparation  
Bible Passage: Isaiah 40:3-5, 11:1-11

### **Recapping the Preach**

Take time to read the two passages and perhaps look at a different translation

- What stood out to from the passages?
- Do you think there is a link between the two passages? If 'yes' how so?
- How do these two passages instruct us practically?

Stu began by talking about desert experiences we may have in life and that God has a purpose for them. He mentioned several examples: Hosea 2:14, Psalm 63:1-3, the people in exile in Babylon and Jesus trial in the desert.

- Did any of these 'desert' experiences resonate with you? Why?
- Can you describe other 'desert' experiences that you have been through? How did God use that time for His purposes?
- Do you agree with the phrase that 'what we do in the desert matters'?

Reflecting on Isaiah 40:3-5 Stu focused on the voice calling out, 'In the desert, prepare the way for the Lord' and then shared his understanding of the metaphors and pictures that Isaiah uses. 1) Make straight a way in the wilderness = get priorities sorted out 2) Every valley raised up - get rid of trip hazards (sin) 3) Every mountain and hill laid low - clear the things that obstruct our view.

- What are the people to prepare for in Isaiah 40:3-5? How does this resonate with the Advent season we are in?
- Are there other things we can do to prepare?
- Do you think the metaphors and pictures Isaiah uses in vs.3-5 mean something else? What else do they draw your attention to?
- Of the three things Stu mentioned which ones stand out most? Why?

The astounding promise of Isaiah 40:3-5 is that the glory of the Lord is about to be revealed. Stu closed by saying that the degree to which which prepare hinges on the weight of importance, how special and significant is the person we are preparing for.

- Do you agree?
- How would you describe the 'glory of the Lord' and how might it be revealed?
- How are you preparing for Christ's coming this Christmas?

### **Response**

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

### **Prayer pointers**

- Pray for the Glorious Adventure that people would rise to the challenges and share encouragement with others.
- Pray that the church might be a people prepared for Christ's coming.

**Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>