

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Beloved King

Mark 1:2-11

Prepare the way for the King (Mark 1:2-5)

When an emperor, governor, or victorious general planned to visit a Roman city, preparations were made well in advance. A herald would go ahead and make the announcement so communities could prepare.

John the Baptist is the herald of Christ. He was calling upon people to prepare for the Messiah by clearing the sinful obstacles of their hearts through confession and repentance.

In effect, John's message to the people of Israel was simple and blunt: you're not ready for the coming King. To ready themselves, they were called to the wilderness, where they must confess their sins, repent, and be baptized. In other words, practicing Judaism was not the same as preparing their hearts for the Lord's salvation.

Repentance can be painful, but it is a wonderful gift of grace. Jesus said: *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted* (Matthew 5:4). According to Jesus, blessing begins when we stop hiding from the truth about ourselves.

Nothing can stand as a substitute for a repentant heart. Ask yourselves some probing questions:

- 1. Are there crooked places I have learned to excuse?
- 2. Is there sin I am concealing rather than confessing and repenting?
- 3. Am I relying on appearance and activity while resisting the rule of Jesus?

Listen and respond to the messenger of the King (Mark 1:6-8)

Before John's birth, he was set apart by God for the unique ministry of preparing the people for Christ. Jesus would later say there was no one greater than John (Matthew 11:11).

John's message was one of repentance, and his life was a living illustration of the message. He embodied his message. And that makes for powerfully effective ministry. There is something powerful when the message we proclaim can also be seen in the lives we live.

John understood that his ministry was never supposed to end with people looking at him. Instead, he wanted people to see and know Jesus.

His perceived unworthiness of himself: (verse 7)

His understanding of Jesus' greatness (verse 8)

John understood that he could immerse people in the waters of the Jordan as an outward expression of repentance, but he could not change their hearts, cleanse and forgive their sin, give them new life, or empower them to obey God. However, Jesus can. Jesus has the divine authority to give the Spirit.

John's message brought law and grace perfectly together. He used the law to call people to repent. And he pointed them to grace.

That leaves us with two questions.

- 1. Does my life direct attention toward Jesus or toward me?
- 2. Am I merely trying to improve my outward behavior, or am I depending upon Jesus for inward transformation?

Behold the beloved Son (Mark 1:9-11)

The Father speaks, the Son is baptized, and the Spirit descends, all to bring about the work of redemption.

Why is Jesus presenting himself to be baptized?

- 1. Jesus stands with sinners.
- 2. Jesus publicly embraces the Father's mission.
- 3. Jesus fulfills all righteousness.

When Jesus was raised up from being immersed, *immediately he saw the heavens being torn open (schizō) and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.*

The Spirit descended like a dove, fulfilling the prophecy expectations of Isaiah 11, 42, and 61. *Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him.* (Isaiah 42:1 ESV)

God the Father: *"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

Mark only records God the Father speaking twice, and both times he affirms Jesus as his beloved Son, one he loves deeply and uniquely. Catch the timing here. Before Jesus performs a miracle, calls a disciple, or preaches a single message, the Father declares his delight in him.

We are not the beloved Son in the same unique and eternal sense that Jesus is. But when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus, we are united with him. His Father becomes our Father. We are clothed in his righteousness, adopted into God's family, and welcomed into a love we could never earn.

God doesn't accept us because we have learned to please him. He accepts us because we are in Christ, the beloved Son in whom he is perfectly pleased.



Sunday, August 9, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

NEXT STEPS
TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MEADOWBROOK

NEXT STEPS LUNCH

TODAY at 11:45 AM
Conference Center

This lunch is for anyone who has been attending and prayerfully considering membership at MeadowBrook. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs, structure and answer any questions you may have.
(Pre-requisite for membership)

CONNECT

people to Christ
and His church



Global Missions Cohort

BEGINS TODAY | 4:00 PM | Round Room

Our Missions Cohort is a 10-session class where we will explore the biblical foundations for the Great Commission in the Old and New Testaments and learn about our mission partnerships. **Cost - \$15.00**

THE WELL Women on Mission

**TODAY | 5:30 PM | Home of Jamie McGlaughn
{201 Chrislyn Drive | Gadsden, AL}**

Missions Emphasis:
Report from women who participated in
our Ireland and Poland Mission Teams



SECRET SUPPER LADIES' NIGHT OUT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 ★ 5:30-8:00 PM

Register at mbchurch.com
or on the MB App

GROW

them as disciples
and equip them to

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
11:45 am - Next Steps Lunch - Conference Center
4:00 pm - Global Missions Cohort - Round Room
5:30 pm - Women on Mission - McGlaughn Home

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

6:00 pm - Pickleball - Gym

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

10:45 am - Abundant Life Choir - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Chicken with Pasta, Broccoli Casserole, Roasted Corn,
Breadstick & Dessert or Salad with a Protein; Kids: Same)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study, Preschool Ministry,
KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship,
Worship Ministry Rehearsal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

5:30 pm - Secret Supper

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**,
we'd like to **CONNECT**
with you! Please fill out
a **CONNECTION CARD**
and stop by
GUEST CONNECTIONS
for a **FREE** gift!

life group

Life together for the
Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward
finding Christ-Centered
community at MeadowBrook
by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes,
pick up a Life Group booklet
at Guest Connections.

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

August 9 - Luke 8:1-25
August 10 - Luke 8:26-56
August 11 - Luke 9:1-36
August 12 - Luke 9:37-62

August 13 - Luke 10
August 14 - Luke 11:1-28
August 15 - Luke 11:29-54

SERVE

through missions,
ministry and worship



GriefShare®

MONDAYS
Beginning August 31
10 AM | Conference Center

GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At GriefShare you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind. **Cost: \$10 for workbook**

Facilitated by: Amelia Day, Bob Sanford, Sue Chappell, Jim & Deb Rhodes



ABUNDANT LIFE CHOIR

We will have our Fall Season start-up this **Tuesday, August 11th**, at **10:45 AM** in the **Worship Center**. If you are 55+ and enjoy singing, we'd love for you to join us as we split our Tuesdays between rehearsals and community outreach. For questions or more information, email kevin@mbchurch.com.

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Rob Morris, Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Janyne Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sabrina Freeman, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure, Ivan Fike

- Vickey Weeks & family in the loss of her father
- Rob Morris - Riverview
- Laura Hoge - Encompass Rehab
- Kenny Clevenger & family in the loss of his mother
- Charles Wells - UAB
- Mike Coin - recovering from knee surgery