

Preparing Presence Sermon Notes
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Are we preparing for Christmas or Ship-mas?

Many people prepare for Christmas by Stressing and Spending

How we prepare for Christmas affects how we experience Christmas.

³The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,
“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”

Matthew 3:3

⁴John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

Matthew 3:4

John the Baptist image

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ²“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Matthew 3:1-2

Prepare for Christmas by replacing stressing and spending, with repenting and refocusing.

True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, "I'm sorry," and more time looking to the future and saying, "Wow!" -Frederick Buechner

³⁰He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

John 3:30

⁶God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:6-9

