



SERMON NOTES

Straightaway

Pastor Carl Toti

December 6-7, 2014

Mark 1:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." ³ "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" ⁴ John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. ⁵ Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. ⁸ I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Deuteronomy 2:1-3 (NASB)

¹ "Then we turned and set out for the wilderness by the way to the Red Sea, as the LORD spoke to me, and circled Mount Seir for many days. ² "And the LORD spoke to me, saying, ³ 'You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north,

Luke 3:4-6 (CEV)

⁴ Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said, "In the desert someone is shouting, 'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him. ⁵ Fill up every valley and level every mountain and hill. Straighten the crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads. ⁶ Then everyone will see the saving power of God."

How Do We Change Course?

1. MAKE A U-TURN

"proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (v. 4).

True repentance isn't merely feeling sorry but changing course.

John's baptism of repentance is better translated as:

- **A baptism "to show that they had turned from their sins and turned to God"** (New Living Translation).
- **A baptism "to show that they were changing their hearts and lives"** (Common English Bible).
- **"A baptism of life-change"** (The Message).
- **"people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins"** (v. 5).

2. WE NEED A NEW POWER SOURCE

"is more powerful than I," the one who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (vv. 7-8).