

# Devotional—day 4

## "Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord)"

"At the height of their violence and despair, the point was that the arrival of a new philosopher was heralded (*Prepare Ye*), and that this new presence (Jesus) would bring a different way of looking at life that could ultimately unite them all."

- Stephen Schwartz -

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**Isaiah 40:3** (The Message)

3Thunder in the desert!

**"Prepare for GOD's arrival!**

Make the road straight and smooth,  
a highway fit for our God."

**Matthew 3:1-6 & 11-12** (The Message)

***Thunder in the Desert!***

1While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called "the Baptizer," was preaching in the desert country of Judea. 2His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: "**Change your life.** God's kingdom is here." 3John and his message were authorized by Isaiah's prophecy:

Thunder in the desert!

**"Prepare for GOD's arrival!**

Make the road straight and smooth,"

4John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. 5People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. 6There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life."

11"I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama--compared to him I'm a mere stagehand--will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. 12He's going to clean house--make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

## *Time for personal reflection (Day 4):*

Who “prepared” the way of the Lord in my Life? Who made the “made the road straight and smooth” for Him to enter my heart? (This could conceivably be more than 1 person)

What attributes does/did this person (or those people) have that helped clear the way?

How did my life change when Jesus “cleaned house” and “put out the trash”?

Do I have some dusting and sweeping to do before I head out on tour? What exactly do I need to do?

On this tour, what role do I see myself fulfilling on God’s road construction crew?

Will my role on the construction crew change once the tour is over? Why or why not?