

Prepare The Way of The Lord

by Carter Conlon

This sermon emphasizes the need for repentance, transformation, and belief in God's power to bring healing and deliverance. It calls for making a straight path for God to work in our lives, addressing issues like sin, addiction, broken relationships, and the longing for a supernatural visitation from God. The message highlights the importance of genuine repentance, surrendering to God, and allowing Him to transform our hearts and lives.

Scripture: Luke 3:2, Ephesians 4:22, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 3:3, Isaiah 40:3, Romans 6:23, James 4:8, Psalm 51:10, Mark 1:4, Revelation 3:20

Topics: "Repentance", "Transformation"

Description

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Transcript

I have a specific word tonight for some people, and I've just taken some highlights of some prayer requests on the tablet that we carry, as you are sending them in from all over the world. And I want to speak to you, to these people here tonight, and I want to speak also to everybody who's in a similar condition. From the U.S., my dad has always resented to me, and to this day, he's an old man who doesn't love me.

Please pray for God's love to reach my life for forgiveness and healing and compassion. From Miami, Florida, God bless me with financial miracles. Remove all this lust and replace it with grace.

Replace it with peace. Take me to better things. Amen.

From Angola, I ask for help in prayer for my professional, sentimental, and spiritual, and financial life. God, free me from the spell and curse. Now, I don't know what the spell and curse is in Angola, but I do know that Christ set you free.

If you turn to Him, He'll set you free. From Fort Lee, my heart is hurting. I lost my mom a few months ago, and I feel betrayed by my husband.

My kids are sad too. Jesus, please heal me, my children, and our marriage. From Moosonee, Canada, I can't take this anymore.

I'm tired. Am I believing wrong? I hate this spirit of fear. I need deliverance, and I need healing in my body.

Jessica, we're going to believe God for you tonight as well. From Salem, Indiana, Joshua says, I'm in a storm of supernatural proportions. My life is utterly shattered.

Father, I call out to you. From Florida, please pray for a fresh baptism of God's Holy Spirit. I need deliverance from pornography and having to control everything.

From Anchorage, Alaska, Eva says, please pray for me. I'm drinking almost every day except when I'm working. From Sweden, Lord, help me.

I can't go on being a man who doesn't, being with a man who doesn't love me and has dating apps on his phone. So much is wrong, but I'm weak. And from Knott's, from Monica and Knott's in the United Kingdom, please pray for a new love in our marriage and for the complete healing of our marriage.

I give all to you, Jesus, and I thank you and praise you for your will alone. And this is, what I've just read to you is symptomatic of so many people who are, as Pastor Nick shared tonight as well in the meeting, they're waiting for their miracle. And that's what I want to talk to you about tonight.

Everybody who's, you've just been waiting and you're almost like the people of Israel were many years ago when there was, between the Old Testament and the New Testament, there was a 400-year period of silence where seemingly God was not speaking to the people. And many people tonight, that's what you feel like. Say, God, it's been so long.

I've been waiting for you. Where are you? Would you be surprised if I told you tonight that we are on the edge of experiencing a supernatural visitation of God one more time in our generation? I speak that prophetically. I know it in my heart.

We are at a moment where Christ is coming. And there was a voice that God raised up. It was a message.

Now in our generation, it's not going to be in the generation of Jesus, it was one man, one voice. His name was John the Baptist. In our generation is going to be many voices raised, many men and women who are locked in with God and they're starting to hear.

We're all hearing the same thing. I was talking to Pastor Tim Delina today. He's hearing it as well.

We are hearing the same thing. Kevin Jessup, a guest speaker we had here in chapel today at our Bible school, he's hearing the same thing. We're on the edge of a visitation of God.

And before God does something, he sends voices in to call the people, to call the people's attention to the fact that he's coming. He's coming to do things that only God can do. This is not wishful thinking on my part tonight, my friend, that I'm talking to tonight.

Wherever you are in your home, your living room, whatever group, whatever country, this is not wishful thinking. Christ is returning to this world soon. And before he returns, he, in his mercy, is going to gather everyone who can still hear his voice.

Everyone who's still at the side of the road crying, Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me. Everyone who's looking for a reason for life. Everyone who's sick and tired of being sick and tired.

Everyone who's in a storm and they don't know how to get out. Everyone who's just crying and saying, God, where are you? It seems like 400 years have been crying out to you and you're not answering my prayer. Then suddenly the word of God comes to a man.

Luke chapter 3 and verse 2, it says, while Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests, the word of God. Now there's a priesthood, but they don't have a word. You know, and that can happen in any generation.

There's just people up and they're just reading things and they're quoting things that are true. It's right. They're reading from the scriptures, but they don't have a living word from God.

They're not hearing from God, but there was a man came, the word of God came to a man called John, the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. Matter of fact, he wasn't in anywhere special. He was in the middle of nowhere, but God started speaking to this man and he went into all the region around about Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah, the prophet saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight. Every valley shall be filled, every mountain and hill brought low, the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth and all flesh shall see the salvation of the Lord. So God almighty, God almighty, God almighty anoint these words.

God almighty send your power into every home, every bedroom, every couch, every living room, every park bench, every car, every place where somebody is listening tonight. God send your power. God, let your word, your word is alive.

Your word created the universe. Your word has power. Send your word, Lord, send your word as you did through John and John, you use this man to get the attention of a generation that are became used to not hearing from God.

Father, God in Jesus' name, heal tonight, Lord. We ask you to heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, give sight to the blind, heal bruised and wounded hearts, open prison doors, let the poor have the treasure of God preached to them. Lord, do what only you can do tonight.

Jesus, son of God, have a harvest in this generation that will sow, sow glad in your heart. Oh God, we didn't go to a cross, you did because you loved us. You said so, we know that, we believe it.

You stood in the temple and you said, this is why the father sent me to heal the sick, to raise the dead, to give sight to the blind, to open prison doors and that the poor might have the treasure of heaven opened to them. So God, we just pray and speak in accordance with your will tonight. Let your kingdom come and let your will be done.

God, I promise you one thing, we will give you the glory. My God, we know what we are without you, but we know that because of you, we are sons and daughters of your kingdom and we give you praise and glory in Jesus' name. So John comes to the people and he tells the people, prepare a way.

So here I am tonight telling you online and those that maybe are gathered here in the sanctuary or visiting us, prepare a way for God to do a work in you that only God can do. So the question is, well how do we prepare the way for God? Christ was just about to be revealed. You know it was under the ministry of John when people came into the waters of baptism.

As soon as they were baptized, it was then that Jesus said, behold the Lamb of God. When they actually responded to this word, their eyes were opened and they saw God's son, the atoning sacrifice for their sin, the hope for the future, their freedom, their healing, that longing desire that they'd had for years and years and years, that cry that was in so many hearts of the people. Now the first thing out of John's mouth when he's telling the people to prepare a way for the Lord, he told them to repent.

And I'm going to tell you that tonight. Repent. Repent means change.

Repent means, here's an example of repentance. You're an alcoholic, but you'd be satisfied with getting away with just five or six drinks a day if you could kind of control your behavior and you're calling out to God, but you don't really want to repent. You just want to kind of have less consequence from your sin.

That's not repentance. Repentance means I don't want my lips stained by alcohol anymore. I want the living water of God coming from my inward parts.

That's the promise of God for my life. So I'm going to put this part of my life away. I'm going to repent of being selfish in my marriage.

I'm going to repent of the dating app, as this lady said, on my husband's phone. I'm going to repent of the pornography I've been looking at at work. I'm going to repent of the gossip and slander that's in my tongue, or the hatred that's in my heart, or the unforgiveness I've held towards family members.

I'm going to repent, which means I'm going to stop living my way, and I'm going to start living the way that God says I should live. This is how the way... He comes to set us free, but we have to want to be free. He comes to change us, but we have to want to change.

You can't sit there and make peace with your sin and ask God to come into your life. It doesn't work that way. Sin separates from God, and the wages of sin, according to the Bible, is death.

It's always been death. It still is death. It will forever be death.

The only way out of the wages of sin is through Jesus Christ. The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Repent.

When I got saved and I started reading my Bible, the first thing that started happening to me was I started seeing my character in the light of what God says my character should be. It's like going to a doctor, and you look good on the outside until you stand in front of an x-ray machine. And then when you stand in front of the x-ray machine, you see the broken bones and the tumors or whatever is in your body, the things that shouldn't be there.

That's what the Word of God does. For example, there's somebody tonight that's listening to me. The Word of God says, Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.

So start there, sir, if you've got trouble in your marriage. Let the x-ray machine of God touch your heart, touch your selfishness, touch your lust. And you ask yourself, am I loving my wife as Christ loved the

church? Am I giving for my wife? And if you're not, repent.

That means turn. It means I was walking this way, and now I'm going to turn, and I'm going to walk this. It's a willful choice that I make in my life not to live in sin or not to live with an attitude of heart that God says I shouldn't have.

Now, Ephesians chapter 4 verses 21 to 24 says this, If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus, that you put off concerning your former conduct, the old man, the old nature, which grows corrupt according to deceitful lust. In other words, without Christ, you are continuously being deceived, and you're actually getting darker, and you're getting more entrenched in behavior that alienates you from who you're supposed to be in God. And Paul says, And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man, which was created according to God in true righteousness and holiness.

So Paul is saying, get into the Word of God and put away this old nature. My God, if I could get in your living room, I'd shake you right now. I'm talking to somebody.

I know I'm talking to somebody. I just feel like I'd grab you by the collar right now and say, What are you waiting for? Why do you sit in this poverty? When you are offered this treasure of life, when you're offered the freedom from sin, when you're offered healing in your home, when you're offered a way and a future, what are you doing sitting there still, compromising with this stuff? Listen, you know what repentance looks like? Go to the cupboard, pour that whiskey down the drain, flush those drugs down the toilet, throw that laptop in the garbage if you can't get rid of the pornography in your life. Repent, that means change, because you're being offered life.

John said, Make a straight path into your heart for God to come. Don't make it a crooked place. Don't make it a place where you're ducking and weaving and hiding behind curtains and trying to see how close can I stay to hell and how close can I get to God at the same time? Repent.

Make a straight path. That was the word that John brought to the people. How does it happen though? Now in Luke chapter 3 verse 5, here it is.

He says in verse 4, he says, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight. Now verse 5 is all God. This is where the beauty of it comes in.

This is what God does. He says, Every valley will be filled. Every low place in your life that you think you're never, every hole you're in that you think you're never going to get out of, God's going to fill it, and God's going to give you the power to get out.

Every mountain shall be brought low. Every thing that's too big, everything that stands in your way, every place where you feel like you can't climb it, the devil put it there, you can't get over it, you can't get through it, you can't get around it. God says, You leave that mountain to me.

You make a straight path into your heart, and I'll look after your mountains. I'll take those mountains out of your life, and I will give you the power to cast them into the midst of the sea. The crooked places shall be made straight.

This is what God will do. If we have made a straight path, all these crooked places, and may I just say it straight out, we are crooked without God. We deviate.

We craft crooked reasonings. We're like snakes. We just, we're like this in our logic.

Always reasoning, always conniving, always figuring out how we can do it. How can we get away with it? How can we do this? How can we deviate around the truth of God? And God says, No, I'm going to make all the crooked places straight, a straight path, and the rough ways will be made smooth. Hallelujah.

There'll be a clear, He says, I'll be the voice behind you that says, This is the pathway, walk in it. So we repent, then we believe that God will give us the victory. And verse six is the capstone.

And John said, And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Where do you think they're going to see it? In you. All flesh.

It means your house. It means your family. It means your friends.

It means your neighbors. They'll see in you what God alone is able to do. All flesh will see the salvation of God.

That's, I think, where we're going as a society in this last hour of time, that everybody's going to be given an opportunity to see who God is and what God can do. Through who? Through me, through you, through people whose lives have been transformed. Because why? They've made a straight path for God to come into their life.

They've confessed Him. They've repented of their sin. They've allowed God to come in.

They have believed that He is able to transform their lives, and they have a confession. Only God could have done this for me. Who but God could have changed my life the way my life has been changed.

Praise be to God. I was not, you know, I wasn't as interested in theology when I, before I got saved as how this thing works. I think everybody's got a stick in New York City or, you know, everybody's got a gimmick, everybody's got an idea.

But when this police officer came to me and started telling me about Christ, my question was, show me how it works. As a matter of fact, he did. I remember the man looked at me, said, I used to be a womanizer and a drunk and a gambler.

And I looked at this guy, and he was as straight as an arrow. He was a career man. He was sharp.

He was clear, and he's clean. And even more than that, he loved me. He cared for me.

I could blow smoke in his face. I could drink beer in front of him. I could make fun of him.

And he kept coming to my house because he cared for my soul. And it wasn't his theology that won me to Christ. It was him.

It was the reality of Jesus in his life. All flesh shall see. Without him, I don't know if I would be saved today.

I needed a flesh and blood example of the reality of God because everyone has an opinion about everything, especially God. I needed an example. Does this thing work in people's lives? He told me, if any man is in Christ, he's a new creation.

All the old things are passed away. Behold, all things are become new. And he was to me a living example.

That man was everything other than what he said he used to be. He had repented of his sin. He had repented of womanizing and gambling and drinking.

He had repented of that. He had opened his heart to God, made a street path. The Lord had transformed his life.

And he was confessing that transformation before me. And because of it, I saw the salvation of God. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. You know, as a cop, you're trained to observe. And I knew at a certain point this is true.

And it provoked me then to read the Gospel of John. And when I read the Gospel of John, I prayed. And I said, Jesus, if this is true, show it to me.

And He did. You see, I was making now a straight path for Him to come into my life and start to speak to me. I wasn't trying to corrupt it.

I wasn't trying to carve it into something that I thought would be palatable to me. I was just saying, God, show me. He showed me the cross.

Not only the cross, but without ever hearing a sermon on it, He showed me that I wasn't coming to Him just to dump my bad feelings about myself, but to actually repent of my sin and give the rights to the rest of my life over to God. Nobody ever told me that. I read it.

I saw it. And when I turned to God in 1978 on the side of the road, it was the beginning of a brand new life. And I've been over most of the world, I guess, by this point.

And hopefully many people have had the chance to see the salvation of God. Hey, don't make this thing complicated. You know, you don't have to know any Hebrew words to experience this.

Just Jesus, that's all. You just have to just believe, just repent. May I challenge the people, so many people online, you know, I mean, we've got prayer requests like, my boyfriend has eyes for other women.

I mean, I remember seeing that two weeks in a row. Well, what are you doing with him? Dump the guy. Dump him.

This guy's just going to break your heart. He's going to commit adultery on you. Get out of there.

Let him treat you like a rag doll. You get out of there. You're coming into a prayer meeting and asking for prayer, but you know what to do.

Ask God, what is it in you that gets you into these relationships in the first place? And the Bible says repent, and then believe that He's going to come and He's going to make your valleys, He's going to lift you up and bring your mountains down and make your crooked ways straight, and you're going to have a testimony. Maybe even He will see it. Who knows? You don't know what God will do.

Maybe it'll be the one that turns His heart to the truth of Christ. Who knows? God Almighty, Father, in Jesus' name, in Jesus' name, Lord, in Jesus' name, Father, I ask You tonight for people to finally make the

decision that need to, to finally just get sin sick and just get up and say, I'm going with God. I'm going with God.

And whatever that means in my life, I am going to repent of my sin. I'm putting away my drugs, my wicked tongue, my love of pleasure, everything else that I know is wrong. I'm just, by the hatred in my heart for somebody, I'm just going to put it all away.

And I'm going to trust You, Lord, that as I make a straight path into my heart, that You will give me freedom and victory. And You'll change me, and I could become another person, another man, another woman, whatever your case is, another mother, another father, another brother, another sister. God, I could be a person different than what sin is making me into.

And Lord, I will confess You. I will, I will speak of You as my God. And I do long for people around me to know that You are real.

You're real. And so what I'm going to get up and I'm going to walk on the water. I heard it today.

I'm going to walk on the water towards You. As the song said earlier, I'm coming home. Seems like a long way, but I'm just, I'm coming home.

I'm coming home. Please, please come home. Please, please listen to me online.

I know, I can see you actually tonight, somebody. I know how discouraged you are, and I know how down you feel, but don't you know how much God loves you? Do you feel a longing in His heart for you? He died for you. It wasn't just an empty display on His part.

He died for you because He loves you, and you had no way out, but through Him paying the price for your sin. So why won't you just come home? Why would you sit there any longer? He has a, not only an eternity for you, but a full, meaningful life on this side of eternity. Like a reason to live.

And you'll experience the supernatural of God. You will become another person. I'm telling you straight out, the man I was at 24 died, literally died, and another man was born.

The Bible calls it being born again by the Spirit of God. That man died. He doesn't exist anymore, and a new man was born, because God came, because I opened my heart.

And so I'm going to ask you to do that tonight. I'm going to ask you online to pray with me right now, and make these words, this is not a formula. We don't, it's, it's not, it's not my prayer that's going to save you.

It's, it's you making it your thought. I'm just helping you and guiding you, and I'm going to ask everybody in the sanctuary tonight to pray with me, so that you can hear them too. This is, they are, they're mostly Christians most likely, but you are in need of a Savior, and they're, they're praying this prayer for you, to help you along.

So say these words, and say them out loud in your house tonight. Lord Jesus Christ, I don't want to live like this anymore. I'm not the person that you're calling me to be.

I'm tired of my sin, and I want to change. I'm willing to be the person that you want me to be, and tonight I believe that you died on a cross. You were nailed there.

You were beaten. You were rejected, and you did it for me, so that I wouldn't be rejected, so I could come home. And so God, I just, tonight I open my heart to you, and I invite you to come into my life, and be my Lord and my Savior.

I believe that you are receiving me right now as your child. I believe that you have a new purpose for my life. You won't fail me, and that people will see you in my life.

I believe that you'll bring healing into my mind, my body, my family, my marriage, my children, my friends. Oh Jesus, I believe. I believe.

If you prayed that prayer tonight, I want you to take one first step. I want you to text the word, decided, on your cell phone to 51000. Text the word, decided, to 51000, and let somebody from Times Square Church get in touch with you.

We'll just send you an email. It'll be real quick, and just give you some advice as to where you go from here. What do I do now? How do I get connected with people who believe this? What kind of a church should I go to? We can answer all those questions.

Just lean on us for just a little while, and let us help you get started in your walk with God. Just text the word, connect, to 51000, and then get prepared to have communion, because we're about to celebrate you tonight. So Father, I just ask God, in Jesus' name, that you'd seal the work.

I see somebody out there. It's a girl. You've got long brown hair, and you're just a mess, and you know it, but it's okay.

Jesus loves you. He's going to, as we say, he's going to turn your mess into a message. You watch what God's about to do for you.

You feel down, you feel depressed, you feel worthless, you just don't even see a reason to live, but tonight God's giving you a reason to live, and you're going to live, and you're going to have a song. As a matter of fact, I think at some point you're going to visit us here at our Bible school in Grantville, Pennsylvania, and come in and say, you remember that night? I was that girl that you were talking to. I know you're coming.

I know you're going to come. I just know it in my gut. The Holy Spirit is speaking it to me, so you're going to come.

The Lord's not going to fail you. You watch what God's going to do for you. So Father, just seal the work.

Seal it, God, by your Holy Spirit, and I'm asking you, Lord, just to visit people right now, right where they are. Visit them where they are, O God, and seal the work that only you can, Lord. We can't seal it just by human enthusiasm.

It's got to be a divine work, so Lord, you do the work right now, and you seal this work in the hearts of those that have opened their lives to you. God, I thank you. God, I thank you so, so much, Lord, for what you're doing.

Thank you so, so much.

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