THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

THE EFFECTIVE WITNESS: JOHN THE BAPTIST

MARK 1:1 THRU 11

INTRODUCTION: IN MARK’S GOSPEL, JOHN THE BAPTIST JUMPS FULL-BLOWN ONTO THE FRONT PAGE OF THE STORY OF CHRIST. JOHN’S STORY DOMINATES THE FIRST EIGHT VERSES OF THIS GOSPEL AND HE IS MENTIONED EXTENSIVELY IN EACH OF THE OTHER THREE GOSPELS. WHY WAS HE SO EFFECTIVE AS A WITNESS? TONIGHT, WE WILL TAKE A LOOK AT FOUR ASPECTS OF JOHN’S MINISTRY THAT MADE HIM AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS.

I. **THE MESSIAH’S FORERUNNER (V2-3).**

1.MALACHI 3:1 AND ISAIAH 40:3 EACH TOLD THE MINISTRY OF THE MESSIAH’S FORERUNNER/MESSENGER.

2.THE WAY OF THE LORD IS THE WAY OF REPENTANCE, OF TURNING FROM SIN TO RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF TURNING SPIRITUAL PATHS THAT ARE CROOKED INTO ONES THAT ARE STRAIGHT AND HOLY.

II. **ASPECTS OF THE EFFECTIVE WITNESS**

A. THE CHARACTER OF THE MESSENGER (V6). THIS VERSE GIVES A VISUAL INTRODUCTION TO HIS CHARACTER.

B. THE NATURE OF HIS MESSAGE (V4-8).

C. THE DELIVERY OF HIS MESSAGE (V5). WHAT IS INDICATED HERE IS THAT JOHN WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT DELIVERING HIS MESSAGE.

D. THE CONFIRMATION OF HIS MESSAGE (V9-11).