



Nov. 27- Dec 3, 2016
Text: *Isaiah 40:1-5*
ADVENT THEME: Advent Choices

1st Sunday of Advent: *Preparers or Preventers*

SUMMARY OF SERMON: Isaiah looks ahead to that time when Israel returns from exile, her punishment for rebellion completed. But more than that, what is envisioned is the coming of Messiah to deliver people from their sins. Such a mighty, gracious act of God will be accompanied by a herald announcing the good news, a call we have in Christ.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week remind us that we Christians are to help prepare others to respond to the good news of the gospel.]

Monday, Nov. 28 – **Luke 3:1-20** [John the Baptist's role was to prepare people to come to faith in Jesus Christ. He did this by calling people to repent of their sins. John made it clear that he was not Messiah – he wanted people to be ready for Jesus when He would appear.]

Tuesday, Nov. 29 – **Psalms 95** [The first seven verses of this psalm are a beautiful expression of praise to our God. The last four verses present a big change in mood. The call is not to miss the voice of the Lord and be rebellious. Our call to share the good news does not guarantee others will listen. We pray and leave their hearts up to God.]

Wednesday, Nov. 30 – **Romans 10:1-15** [Paul knows that salvation is found only through faith in Jesus Christ (v9) Yet he also asserts (vv.14-15) that people need to hear the good news of the gospel in order to believe. Our sharing the good news is preparing their hearts.]

Thursday, Dec. 1 – **Isaiah 52:1-12** [This passage is a continuum from our text this week, Isaiah 40:1-5. When Messiah comes His people are to proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth (v.10). V.7 was quoted in yesterday's reading from Romans 10.]

Friday, Dec. 2 – **Luke 14:15-24** [This parable of Jesus reminds us that as His disciples we prepare the way for people to come into God's kingdom through our invitation. However, we should not be surprised when others aren't interested. Instead, be thankful for those who do respond.]

Saturday, Dec. 3 – **Colossians 4:2-6** [Paul reminds us here that prayer is essential in our preparing people to hear the good news. Also essential are actions and speech full of God's grace.]



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