

Right Sizing Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist announced that people needed to prepare the way of the Lord. In moving to Maryland, we needed to downsize, or as one friend put it rightsize. In preparing a way for the Lord in our lives we need to rightsize our lives.

To begin we need to decide what is really important. One of the struggles we face in life is what do we spend our time doing. We have a finite amount of time and there are more demands than we can meet. We constantly have to decide where are we going to spend our time and energy. As John calls us to prepare the way of the Lord we need to center ourselves in Jesus. To be serious about being disciples we need to make sure that Jesus is the center of all we do. As we are centered on Jesus, we will make time to be with Him and learn about Him. Also, as we center on Jesus, we will be led to make our family, relationships and community a priority in our lives. People are what is important. We find ways to serve Jesus by reaching out to others.

What do we need to get rid of? What is the junk in our lives. Just like we collect physical junk in our lives we also have spiritual junk. We need to eliminate the junk. If there are sins in our lives, we need to confess them and ask the Holy Spirit to help us overcome those sins. We need to forgive others who have hurt us. To hold a grudge only hurts us. We need to let it go. We also need to get rid of regrets. There are things that we can beat ourselves up over. All of us have missed opportunities and made mistakes. We let the past be the past. There is nothing we can do about it. What we can do with it is to learn from it. Use our past as a learning experience so we can do better in the future and move on.

In preparing the way for the Lord we can find areas we can improve. In moving we made changes to the house. We can make changes in our lives. We can be more intentional in taking care of the areas that we say are the most important for us. It is one thing to say that our relationship with God and others are the most important things in our lives, but then we need to live that way. Find ways to draw closer to Jesus. Spend time in prayer and study. Seek for what God wants us to do. Where are we being led to draw closer to Jesus? Find ways to be more like Jesus in the time we spend with the Father, and in ways to serve others. As we do this, we will find that our lives are better.

We do not want our lives to be static. We want to move forward. It does not do us any good to get our lives in order if we are not going to live in our rightsized life. I had an aunt whose living room was hardly ever used. No one would go in her living room. When Mackinsie was a baby she went into the room one Thanksgiving and we were shocked when Marge went after her. Our lives can be like this in that we want it to seem nice, but we are not living it. Then we are not living up to our purpose. We want to know that we are fulfilling the purpose that God has called us fulfill. It is not easy. John talked about the things that needed to be done to prepare the way for the Lord he spoke in terms of preparing a road. There was a lot of work that would be needed to prepare a road for the visit of a king. There is work that needs to be done if we are going to prepare for Jesus to work more fully in our lives. Let us do that now as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.