

Sermon Notes – December 17, 2023

The Forerunner and the One (*Mark 1:1-8*)

- I. The opposite of faith is not doubt; the opposite of faith is self-centeredness.
 - A. At his lowest point, the forerunner doubted the message. (*Matthew 11:1-5*)
 - B. At his lowest point, the ONE called him the greatest of men. (*Matthew 11:6-15*)

- II. The principal work of the faithful minister is not self-promotion; the principal work is to present the fullness of Christ.
 - A. The forerunner lived the message in humility. (*Mark 1*)
 - 1. His home; his clothes; his diet.
 - B. The forerunner exalted the ONE boldly. (*Luke 3:7*) (*John 3:27-30*)

- III. The ultimate goal of the church is not numerical growth; the ultimate goal of the church is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - A. The forerunner was not the person who saved people.
 - 1. He prepared the way. (*Mark 1:4*) “eis apheisin hamartion” eis: with reference to; towards the goal of.
 - 2. He was popular for a short time. (*John 5:33-35*) (*Mark 6:17-18*) J.C. Ryle
 - B. The ONE is the only person who saves people.
 - 1. Saved from sin. (*John 5:36-47*) (*Matthew 1:21*)
 - 2. Saved for service. (*Romans 6, 12*)