

“We’re Number ... Two!”

Based on Mark 1:1-8 (NIV) January 19, 2020

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Mark 1:1-3

1 *The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*
2 *It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—*
3 *"a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

† **John the Baptist’s mission was to announce the coming of Jesus.**

† **Mark’s readers, who were Roman Christians, understood that important officials were always preceded by a messenger.**

† **Roman Christians would have been less interested in Jesus’ birth than in this messenger who announced Jesus’ coming.**

Mark 1:4-6

4 *And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*
5 *The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.*
6 *John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.*

† **What do I think the most important symbol of our generation is? _____ (Fill in the blank)**

† **John the Baptist has all the opportunities to be Number One.**

Mark 1:5 - The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

† **Scholars estimate that as many as 300,000 people were baptized by John & many times more listened to him.**

† **John the Baptist has to be recognized as one of the most successful preachers of all time.**

Mark 1:7-8

7 *And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.*
8 *I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

† **John the Baptist teaches us that in order to keep Jesus Christ Number One in my life, I need to be Number 2.**

† **To be Number 2 means:**

- I must have a sense of history. (See Verses 2-3)
- I must be submissive to Christ. (See Verse 7)
- I must be self-sacrificing to God. (See Verse 8)

Applying Today’s Message In My Life:

† Who is someone who has influenced me?

† How did they put themselves at Number 2 to help lift me up?

† If others observe me, who do I place Number One in my life, Jesus or myself?

† When have I been self-sacrificing, been number 2, to lift someone else up?

† Who is someone I can lift up, to help out, for in doing so I am lifting up Christ to Number One in my life?