

ATE OF EMERGENCIES

Preparing for the worst

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# SHARING GOOD NEWS

## When Bad News Sells

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ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY  
More hurdles for American  
It's unclear whether  
post-pandemic

deep divide

also recorded a deep divide between Demo  
Republican supporters on whether everyone  
America has an opportunity to succeed. Some 76%  
of Republican supporters agreed that they did,  
whereas only 28% of Democrat supporters believe  
that to be the case, amounting to a 48 point gap be  
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## Mark 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—  
<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”  
<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,  
preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with [water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison...



**“This study directly demonstrates that humans around the world are more activated by negative news coverage. We are, perhaps, one step closer to accounting for the high frequency of negative news content around the world.”**

**STUART SOROKA, PATRICK FOURNIER, AND LILACH NIR**

**“Cross-national evidence of a negativity bias in psychophysiological reactions to news.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America***



**We seem to be wired with a preference  
to receive bad news and to attend to  
bad news faster.**



**“Paying attention to negative news, the researchers said, is generally an effective survival strategy.”**

**AMINA KHAN, LA Times — “Why People Respond to Negative News”**



**“While repression stifles desire, addiction attaches desire, bonds and enslaves the energy of desire to certain specific behaviors, things, or people. These objects of attachment then become preoccupations and obsessions; they come to rule our lives... [T]he psychological, neurological, and spiritual dynamics of full-fledged addiction are actively at work within every human being.”**

**GERALD MAY, *Addiction and Grace***



**John the Baptist is like other prophets:  
They can deliver the bad news without being  
overcome by it.**



## Malachi 3:1

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.



# Isaiah 40

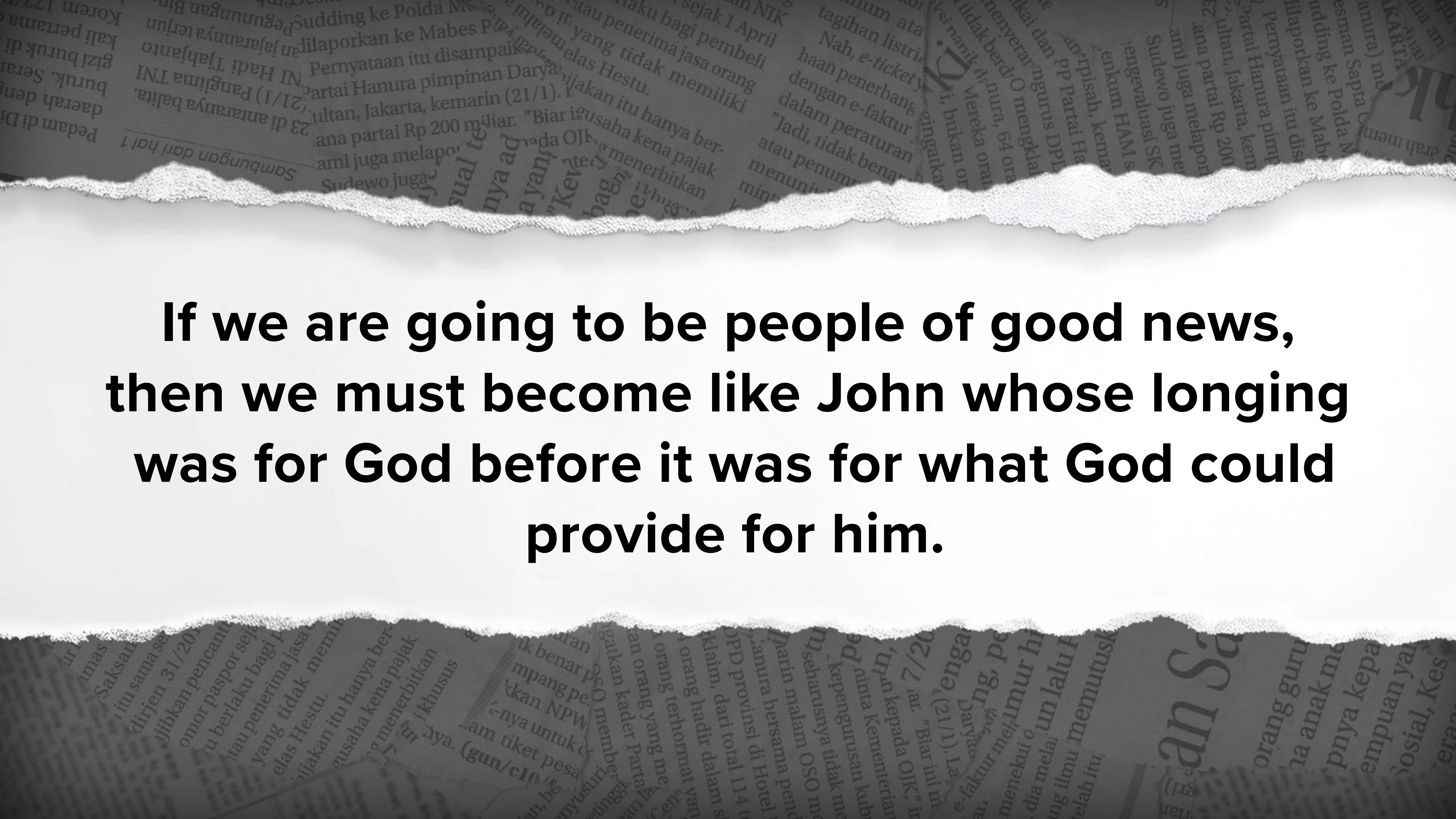
- <sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:  
“In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.



## Mark 1:14b-15

“<sup>14b</sup>Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”





**If we are going to be people of good news,  
then we must become like John whose longing  
was for God before it was for what God could  
provide for him.**



## Mark 1:16-20

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.



**The call of God in Jesus Christ is always  
in tension with other callings. To be in relationship  
with Christ will break our unhealthy attachments  
to other things.**



**God's grace is not permissive. It does not flex to our wants and wishes. God's grace does not excuse wrong behavior. God's grace is transformative. We don't earn God's grace by obeying God. We endure God's grace and its transforming power because Christ is with us.**



**You are the good news, but not in the place of Jesus. You are good news because of Jesus. The Kingdom of God has come near because Jesus is the Kingdom. He is with you. He is with us.**



**What did the Good News  
of Jesus Christ look like?**

**Your sins are forgiven. (Isaiah 40:1-2; Mark 1:4)**

**You are reconciled to God. (Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:11)**

**You are clean. (Mark 1:8)**

**You have meaning and purpose.  
(Mark 1:16-20)**