

12 August 2018: Preached by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew

**Topic: Life of Christ: The Significance of the Forerunner**

Scripture text: Mark 9:11-13

1. A forerunner is a person who will go ahead to announce the coming of a royalty. It is to prepare the way and the hearts of the people for the arrival of the royalty. The scribes questioned whether Jesus was truly the Messiah because there was no forerunner. The disciples also may have doubts. The scribes quoted from Mal 4:5-6 but the passage speaks of the forerunner for the Second Coming of the Lord. They did not understand that before the Conquering Messiah comes, the Suffering Messiah must come first.

2. On the other hand, Mal 3:1 speaks of the forerunner of the First Coming of the Lord. Indeed the forerunner has come. The Lord Jesus was referring to John the Baptist as His forerunner. John the Baptist has prepared the way by calling for sinners to repent. The Lord Jesus Christ would restore all things by His finished work on the cross.

3. Israel rejected the messengers (prophets) in the Old Testament but not the message. But when Israel rejected Christ in His first coming, they rejected the heart of the message. Therefore, God rejected Israel. We must make sure of our salvation. We must not reject the message but rather repent and believe in the Messiah.