

Lesson 8: Works of Christ- Threefold office- Prophet

Key Verse: ¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

Main Idea: God’s prophets were his ambassadors. Their job was to explain God’s covenants, and to encourage his people to be faithful to him. And this was also the heart of Jesus’ prophetic work.

Definition of Prophet

God’s covenant ambassador, who proclaims and applies God’s word, especially to warn of judgment against sin, and to encourage the kind of loyal service to God that leads to his blessings.

1. Old Testament Background

- **Qualifications**

Old Testament prophets were ambassadors or emissaries of God’s covenants.

- a. Called by God**

He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me (Ezekiel 2:1-2).

- b. Given God’s word to speak**

No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).

- Powered by the HS to speak whatever God commanded utilizing the prophets personalities and perspectives.
 - Ultimately the HS guaranteed the words were authoritative and true.

- c. Authenticated by the fulfillment of their message**

If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him (Deuteronomy 18:22).

- Predictions had to be true
 - Accurately relayed the words of God

- **Function**

a. Authority

Prophets were assigned the task of reminding God's people of the details of his covenant.

- In good standing: encouraged Israel to remain faithful.
- Not in good standing: charged Israel with rebellion and disloyalty.

- **Methods**

The most common method the prophets used to accomplish their task was speaking:

- Accused people of sin
- Commanded them to obey
- Encouraged them to persevere
- Warned them of judgment
- Offered them blessings
- Told parables
- Foretold the future
- Prayed
- Interceded for God's people

Questions:

1. One of the aspects of OT prophets lives was that they suffered. Examples- Jeremiah "The Weeping Prophet", Isaiah (martyred), Hosea (disastrous marriage), Daniel (Exile). In looking at these prophets Functions what reasons might you surmise the source of their suffering?
2. Any thoughts or insights on God's grace to the people of the OT through the ministry of prophets?

2. Specific Prophecies

The people also still awaited the final prophet like Moses, who would rise up to lead the people in righteousness, just as Moses had done in the pre-monarchical period.

I will raise up for them **A** prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him (Deuteronomy 18:18).

The expected prophetic herald had been prophesied in Isaiah:

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken" (Isaiah 40:3-5).

3. Fulfillment in Jesus

The New Testament makes it clear that Jesus is God's ultimate prophet. He is perfectly qualified to serve as God's authoritative covenant ambassador. He perfectly executes the functions of the office. And in him, all the Old Testament prophetic expectations are fulfilled.

HEBREWS 1:1-3 LONG AGO, AT MANY TIMES AND IN MANY WAYS, GOD SPOKE TO OUR FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS, ² BUT IN THESE LAST DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON, WHOM HE APPOINTED THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS, THROUGH WHOM ALSO HE CREATED THE WORLD. ³ HE IS THE RADIANCE OF THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE EXACT IMPRINT OF HIS NATURE, AND HE UPHOLDS THE UNIVERSE BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER.

- **Qualifications**

- a. Called by God**

- At Jesus' baptism, God the Father and the Holy Spirit showed that he had been called as a prophet. (Mathew Ch. 3-4)
 - The action that most clearly identified Jesus as a prophet was his transfiguration.
[Jesus'] face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light... Moses and Elijah [were] talking with Jesus (Matthew 17:2-3).

- b. Given God's Word**

- Jesus stated that he had been given God's word to speak.
These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me (John 14:24).

- c. Loyal to God**

- Jesus insisted that he was carrying out the Father's will.
Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them (Matthew 5:17).

- d. Authenticated by Fulfillment**

The Gospels often prove Jesus' status as an authentic prophet by pointing out that his prophecies were fulfilled. Sometimes his words came true immediately, like when he successfully controlled nature, performed exorcisms, healed the sick, and raised the dead. In these cases, things like the weather, demons, illness, and even death itself immediately obeyed his authoritative, prophetic commands. At other times, his prophecies were fulfilled later, as when he predicted the future. For instance, in John 18:9, John provided this comment:

This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me" (John 18:9).

- **Function**

- a. Authority**

My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me... He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false

about him (John 7:16-19).

b. Task

In his role as prophet, Jesus' task was the same as the prophets before him:

- Proclaimed the truth of God's kingship and authority.
- Confirmed that the terms of the covenant were still in force.
- Affirmed the consequences of the covenant.

c. Methods

Jesus' primary method for accomplishing his prophetic task was speaking.

- Accused people of sin.
- Commanded them to repent and obey God's will.
- Encouraged them to persevere in faithfulness.
- Warned of coming judgment.
- Offered blessings to the faithful.
- Told parables.
- Foretold the future.
- Prayed.
- Interceded for God's people.

Questions:

1. Can you see similarities in the way OT prophets suffered and the way that Christ suffered? Isaiah 53:3- Christ is referred to as the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
2. What are some ways that confirm that Jesus was not just another prophet, but The Prophet?

SUMMARY POINTS:

1. This lesson focused mostly on Jesus as prophet in his humiliation (Incarnation) Jesus continues to operate in the office of Prophet through the work of His Word working through the Holy Spirit. That means that He continues to speak with us directly through His Word
 - a. Should encourage us to be in the Word- Primary means of God communicating to us.
 - b. Submit to preaching- The voice of the pastor is not his own, used by God as Christ's prophetic voice. (2 Cor. 5:20) God's ambassadors making his appeal...
2. The task of being lights in the world has been passed to us. We are to work as Prophets in similar fashion to Jesus . Matthew 28: 19-20:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

- a. Witness (Col 4:5-6)
- b. Equipped to edify the body (Heb. 10:24-25)
- c. Rejoice! What a great reason to praise God for His Son- It is through his prophetic office that we heard the Truth.