

“Jesus the Prophet”

Summary

In our exploration of the prophetic grace, we've uncovered profound truths about creating environments where God's presence can flourish. The story of Saul and his messengers encountering Samuel's prophetic company (1 Samuel 19) illustrates how powerful these atmospheres can be in transforming hearts and minds. We're challenged to cultivate spaces - in our homes, churches, and communities - where worship, creativity, and the Holy Spirit's inspiration can flow freely. This isn't just about prophecy; it's about allowing God's perspective to permeate every aspect of our lives. As we embrace this grace, we may find ourselves becoming more sensitive to God's voice, more attuned to His plans, and more effective in bringing His Kingdom to earth. Let's consider how we can create these 'Naoths' - places of rest and divine habitation - in our own spheres of influence.

Main Points – Jesus the Prophet

Title: Cultivating the Prophetic Grace: Environments for God's Presence

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the prophetic grace as one of the five-fold ministry gifts given by Jesus to the church. Pastor Rob emphasizes the importance of creating and valuing environments where God's presence can dwell and inspire His people. He highlights how prophetic grace brings revelation, changes atmospheres, and influences both individuals and regions. The message encourages believers to steward this grace well and to create spaces where creativity, worship, and divine inspiration can flourish.

Key Points:

- The prophetic grace is one of five ministry gifts given by Jesus to mature the church
- Prophetic environments can change atmospheres and soften hardened hearts
- Music and true worship are closely tied to the prophetic grace
- Prophetic grace influences and protects governmental offices
- Creating spaces for inspiration and hearing God's voice is crucial
- The prophetic grace thrives in creative and free-flowing environments
- Honoring and valuing the prophetic grace brings its benefits to the church
- Prophetic ministry should be led by mature leaders but involve the whole body

Scripture Reference:

- Ephesians 4:11-13
- 1 Samuel 19:18-24
- Jeremiah 23:17-18

Stories:

- The account of Saul's messengers and Saul himself prophesying when they encountered Samuel and David at Naioth
- The pastor's personal story of moving from an air mattress to a proper bed, used as an analogy for spiritual growth and not settling for less than God's best
- An anecdote about Cuban officials encountering God's power in revival meetings
- The story of Elijah and his servant seeing the angelic army surrounding them

Small Group Study Guide – Small Group Study Guide –

Jesus the Prophet

Small Group Guide: The Prophetic Grace

Opening Prayer:

Begin by thanking God for His prophetic grace and asking for open hearts to receive and discuss His word.

Key Takeaways:

1. The prophetic grace is one of the five-fold ministry gifts given by Jesus to equip and mature the church.
2. Prophetic environments cultivate inspiration, creativity, and the presence of God.
3. This grace helps create spaces where God's voice can be heard and hearts can be softened.
4. Prophetic ministry involves both leadership and equipping others to function in this grace.
5. Valuing and honoring prophetic grace brings benefits to individuals and communities.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. Pastor Rob mentioned that "your grace marks your place." How do you understand this statement, and does it resonate with your own experiences?
3. How have you seen or experienced the power of worship in creating an atmosphere where God speaks?
4. The sermon discussed the idea of "environments" quite a bit. What kind of spiritual environment do you think you're currently in, and how might it be affecting you?
5. How can we balance the need for structure (apostolic) with the desire for free-flowing environments (prophetic) in our church and personal lives?
6. Pastor Rob said, "What we've received in grace, we must steward with grace." What does this mean to you practically?
7. How might cultivating a prophetic environment in our homes or small groups look different from what we're currently doing?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, set aside 15-30 minutes each day to create a "prophetic environment" through worship, prayer, or meditation on Scripture. Journal any insights or impressions you receive.
2. Evaluate the "environment" of your home. Are there ways you can adjust it to be more conducive to hearing God's voice? (e.g., playing worship music, reducing distractions)
3. Practice "sitting in the counsel of the Lord" by spending time in silent reflection, asking God to speak to you about your life, family, or community.
4. If prophetic ministry interests you, discuss with your group leader or pastor how you might get involved or receive training in this area.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His desire to speak to us. Ask for grace to steward the prophetic gifts well and for discernment in applying what we've learned.

Discussion Questions – Jesus the Prophet

How can we cultivate environments in our personal lives and church communities that are more conducive to hearing from God prophetically?

In what ways might the prophetic grace challenge or complement the other four ministry gifts (apostolic, evangelistic, pastoral, teaching) mentioned in Ephesians 4:11?

How can we discern between true prophetic voices and those who merely speak 'smooth things' to please others, as Jeremiah warned against?

What role does worship play in creating an atmosphere where prophetic revelation can flow, and how can we incorporate this understanding into our gatherings?

How might our decision-making processes in church leadership change if we intentionally sought to involve all five ministry graces, including the prophetic?

In what ways can the prophetic grace help soften hardened hearts and bring transformation to individuals and communities?

How can we balance the need for structure and leadership with the desire for free-flowing, creative prophetic expression in our church services?

What are some practical steps we can take to 'sit in the counsel of the Lord' and cultivate a listening ear for His voice?

How might a renewed emphasis on the prophetic grace affect our approach to addressing societal issues and influencing our local communities?

In what ways can we honor and make space for prophetic ministry while also maintaining biblical discernment and accountability?

Scriptures – Jesus the Prophet

Here are the [scripture references mentioned or alluded](#) to in the sermon, along with some relevant verses that align with the main themes discussed:

Explicitly mentioned:

1. Ephesians 4:11-13
2. Matthew 21:10-11
3. Mark 6:4-6
4. 1 Samuel 10:5-6
5. 1 Samuel 19:18-24
6. Jeremiah 23:17-18
7. Acts 13:2 (alluded to, not quoted directly)

Alluded to or implied:

1. Genesis 1:26 (Let us make man in our image)
2. 2 Kings 3:15 (Elisha calling for a musician)
3. Proverbs 21:19 (Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome wife)
4. 2 Kings 6:17 (Elisha praying for his servant's eyes to be opened)

Relevant verses aligning with main themes:

1. On the fivefold ministry:
 - 1 Corinthians 12:28
 - Eph 4:11-13
2. On prophetic environments and worship:
 - 1 Chronicles 25:1-3
 - 2 Chronicles 20:21-22
 - Psalm 100:2
3. On the importance of honoring leadership:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
 - Hebrews 13:17
4. On cultivating a prophetic atmosphere:
 - 1 Corinthians 14:1
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
5. On the transformative power of God's presence:
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - Exodus 34:29-35

6. On discerning true and false prophets:

- 1 John 4:1
- Deuteronomy 18:21-22

7. On the importance of waiting on the Lord:

- Isaiah 40:31
- Psalm 27:14

Devotional – Jesus the Prophet

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: Cultivating a Prophetic Environment

Reading: 1 Samuel 19:18-24

Devotional: Today's passage illustrates the power of a prophetic environment. When Saul's messengers entered the presence of Samuel and the prophets, they were overcome by the Spirit of God. Even Saul himself was transformed when he entered this atmosphere.

Reflect on the environments you cultivate in your life. Are they conducive to hearing God's voice and experiencing His presence? Consider how you can create more space for worship, prayer, and listening to God in your daily routine. Perhaps start by playing worship music in your home or dedicating a specific time each day to sit quietly before the Lord.

Remember, our environments shape us. By intentionally fostering a prophetic atmosphere, we open ourselves to receive fresh inspiration and direction from God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you become more sensitive to His presence and leading in your life.

Day 2: The Power of Worship

Reading: 2 Kings 3:9-20

Devotional: In today's passage, we see the prophet Elisha calling for a musician before delivering God's message. This highlights the intimate connection between worship and prophecy. As the music played, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha.

Worship has the power to shift atmospheres and prepare our hearts to hear from God. It's not just about singing songs, but about cultivating an attitude of reverence and adoration towards God. When we focus our attention on God's goodness and greatness, we become more attuned to His voice.

Today, challenge yourself to incorporate more intentional worship into your life. This could be through singing, playing an instrument, or simply speaking words of praise to God throughout your day. As you do, be expectant for God to speak to you and give you fresh insights for your situation.

Day 3: Standing in God's Counsel

Reading: Jeremiah 23:16-22

Devotional: Jeremiah challenges false prophets who speak without having "stood in the counsel of the Lord." This reminds us of the importance of taking time to listen to God before we speak on His behalf.

In our fast-paced world, it's easy to rush into decisions or give advice without first seeking God's perspective. Today, practice the discipline of waiting on the Lord. Before important conversations or decisions, take a moment to pause and ask for God's wisdom.

Consider establishing a regular practice of "standing in God's counsel" through extended times of prayer and Bible study. As you do, you'll find yourself more aligned with God's heart and better equipped to speak His truth to others.

Day 4: The Prophetic and Leadership

Reading: Acts 13:1-3

Devotional: Today's passage shows us how prophetic ministry and leadership work together in the church. As the leaders worshipped and fasted, the Holy Spirit spoke, giving direction for their next steps in ministry.

This reminds us that leadership in God's kingdom should always be Spirit-led. Whether you're in a formal leadership position or not, you have influence in various spheres of your life. How can you incorporate more listening to the Holy Spirit in your decision-making processes?

Pray for the leaders in your church and community today. Ask God to give them prophetic insight and the courage to follow His leading, even when it might be challenging or unconventional.

Day 5: Prophetic Grace for Transformation

Reading: 1 Samuel 10:5-7

Devotional: In this passage, Samuel tells Saul that he will encounter a group of prophets and will be "turned into another man." This illustrates the transformative power of the prophetic anointing.

God's prophetic word has the power to change us from the inside out. It's not just about predicting the future, but about aligning our hearts with God's purposes. When we truly hear and receive God's word for our lives, we can't help but be transformed.

Reflect on times when you've experienced this kind of transformation through a prophetic word or encounter with God. How did it change your perspective or actions? Ask God to continue this work of transformation in your life, making you more like Jesus day by day.

Remember, all believers can cultivate a prophetic sensitivity to God's voice. As you conclude this devotional series, commit to staying open and attentive to how God might be speaking to you each day.

The following two pages contain identical information.
The only difference is the appearance.

The purpose of the second page is so that if you are trying to print the file and the background shading on the first page presents a problem, then you have a second option.

The Virkler Grid

A Comparative Analysis of the Foundational Offices of Ephesians 4:11

	Apostle	Prophet	Evangelist	Pastor	Teacher
Heart Passion	For the whole	For inspirational creativity	For the harvest	For people	For truth
Main Gifts	Ability to lead, organize, develop, build and expand	Creative abilities, sense of timing & rightness	Ability to be persuasive	Loves people and heals their hurts	Ability to research and present clearly
Emotions	Less emotional, more structured	Quite emotional—both ups and downs	Highly invigorated, intense	Very sensitive	Less emotional, more structured
Goal	See things organized and running smoothly	Experience the creative flow	Persuade others to see what he sees	For people to be healthy, safe and cared for	Truth clearly communicated and assimilated
Judges others by	Their ability and willingness to fit in	Their ability to experience or appreciate the creative flow	Their ability to influence	Their ability to be sensitive and concerned for people's needs	Their ability to discern and clearly express truth
Influences others by	Helping them to see their value and place in the overall picture	Edification, exhortation, comfort	Enthusiasm, excitement, dynamism	Warmth, love and acceptance	Helping them understand and grow
Value to Organization	Gets everyone working together as a team; is a good troubleshooter	Gives creative expression, spirit encounter, sense of divine timing and destiny	Convinces and excites people about moving in a certain direction	Ensures that people's heart needs are met; provides warmth, happiness, and contentment	Provides continuous clear, practical training for all who enter the organization
Overuses	Abusing power, authority; insensitive to people	Living only out of intuition without validation	Selling things not worth selling	Becoming mushy, weak, too flexible	Leaving no place for intuition; too analytical
Under Pressure	Meets with others to seek resolution	Retreats to be alone	Becomes more invigorated and passionate about what he has to sell; may become dishonest	Reaches out with more warmth and understanding	Does more research
Fears	Loss of authority, structure, organization	Not being able to capture the intuitive creative flow	Not being able to convince	Disunity and discord, brokenness, and emotional destruction	Not being able to pass on progress to the next generation

Danger: If we do not offer balanced fivefold ministry, the church will gravitate toward one or another extreme:

- ✧ **The Evangelist** tends to build a church focused exclusively on winning the lost, minimizing discipleship.
- ✧ **The Prophet** tends to build a legalistic church.
- ✧ **The Teacher** tends to build a theological church.
- ✧ **The Pastor** tends to build a social church.
- ✧ **The Apostle** tends to build a super-organized church.

Condensed from the book Gifted to Succeed by Mark & Patti Virkler – available at www.cwgministries.org

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