

Series: **1=3 - The truth about God and His nature – week 4**

CDOBC – beginning on 4/30/17

Today's Title: **"Jesus-Prophet"**

May 21, 2017 -

OBJECTIVE: To help people know Jesus was the great prophet, and how His prophetic work encourages our life today.

Opening Prayer

Title...Job Description...important things in our world. Here are a few funny, unusual and a bit outrageous.

1. Smarties Expert
2. Writer / Wizard / Mall Santa / Rasputin Impersonator
3. Cat Behavior Consultant
4. Ex-Moonshiner
5. Pork Rind Expert
6. Bear Biologist - and Paper-folder
7. Chief of Unicorn Division
8. Bride Kidnapping Expert

Titles are not only interesting...they serve a purpose.

They should tell us important things about the person to whom they refer.

They communicate what someone does - and what they don't do.

Theoretically, they should communicate something of the person's importance in the organization, their line of work or their status.

Over the last 3 weeks we have looked at God - specifically God the Father, and each week we considered some of the Father's attributes/characteristics or an aspect of His work and activity. In *week #1*, we learned of His work and decree of creation and His Triune nature, in *week #2* we studied the righteousness and holiness of God, and *last week* we looked at the passionate heart of God - He is a loving and redeeming God.

Since He is a Triunity (week 1) - 1 God, 3 persons - we now shift to consider the 2nd person in the Triunity, known also as the Son of God - the incarnate Jesus.

In eternity past - and of course in the Old Testament, the 2nd person of the Triune God existed...but was not yet incarnate (in-flesh). As Paul says in **Galatians 4:4**: “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son...” The 2nd person of the Triune God became flesh and was given the name ‘Jesus’ “for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21b)

God is eternal - not just God the Father, but also the 2nd person of the Triunity (Godhead).

In the Old Testament, there were 3 primary titles (offices) or mediators which were used by God to communicate to and lead His people. The 3 titles/offices were: Prophet, Priest and King.

In the O.T. we see prophets such as Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel.

We see priests, from the descendants of Levi (one of Jacob's sons), the most well-known might be Aaron, the brother of Moses.

The 3rd office / mediator we see in the O.T. were the Kings. King Saul, King David, and King Solomon reigned over a united kingdom of Israel, and all the other kings reigned over a divided Israel - the northern kingdom retained the name "Israel", and the southern kingdom took the name "Judah".
Recap: In the O.T., there were 3 offices / mediators which God used to communicate to His people and to lead His people.

Key point: Jesus is the fulfillment of the O.T.

One way we see this is in the O.T. - there were 3 different mediators God used - but when Jesus became flesh, He combined these 3 different offices of mediation into 1 person.

1 Timothy 2:5

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus..."

Jesus fulfilled the Law of God perfectly in every way - and the offices of prophet, priest and king are no different.

In Jesus, these offices / mediators are fulfilled perfectly - and this has a significant and important application for us in 2017.

Today, we will consider Jesus and His title/office of prophet, and what it means / how it applies to our life today.

Prophet...necessary because of our ignorance of God - who He is / what He wants or commands...

The primary job of the prophet:

A prophet's job: Represent / Reveal God to the people

In Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses prophesied that God would send another prophet (“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...”). Jesus was the fulfillment of this prophecy, as Peter quotes it in reference to Jesus (Acts 3:22-23). Jesus referred to Himself as a prophet.

Matthew 13:57

And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”

Luke 13:33

“Nevertheless, I must go on My way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.”

Early in His ministry, Jesus and His disciples walked through Samaria - and they arrived at a small town in the heat of the day, and Jesus had a conversation with the *Samaritan woman at the well* (John 4).

As they talked, it didn't take her long to realize this was no ordinary man or ordinary teacher - and she said: (vs. 19)

“Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”

For the person who looked and listened with the slightest spiritual discernment, it was obvious Jesus was a prophet from God.

Jesus became flesh so He could reveal God's truth to us. The truth of God reveals a great deal about God - His commands / His desire for our life / His very nature is seen in many of His commands.

Jesus revealed God better than any other prophet could. He represented God perfectly because He is God and He lived a sinless life.

He spoke the Word of God in perfect obedience - and was the Word in bodily form.

R.C. Sproul: (Everyone's a Theologian, by R.C. Sproul, p. 150)

“Jesus is not just the subject of prophecy; He is the chief object of prophecy. He did not just teach about the future or declare the Word of God; He is the Word of God, and He is the focal point of all the prophetic teaching of the Old Testament.”

Prophets were appointed and anointed by God

Prophets were often given explicit instructions by God - a direct calling by God to serve Him as one of His prophets.

Isaiah 6:8-9a

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

9And He said, "Go, and say to this people.."

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Their life mission was clear - and there was nothing they could do other than obey God's calling.

Jonah 1:1

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before Me." - Very clear mission!

Jonah tried to do something else - the next verse tells us how Jonah went the opposite way God had commanded...and if you know the story of Jonah, you know he didn't get very far.

When God appointed you to be a prophet, that is what you were going to do.

Not in every instance, but in some instances, we see prophets were anointed as they began their ministry.

1 Kings 19:16 (God talking to Elijah)

"And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place."

Isaiah 61:1a

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me..."

Messiah (Gr: Christ) means *anointed one* - and Jesus was the Messiah - the Christ.

So, Jesus Christ = Jesus the anointed one of God.

Hebrews 1:8-9 (Difficult to follow the pronouns as God is speaking of Jesus)

But of the Son He (God the Father) says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. (See also Gen. 49:9-10)

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions.”

This is an interesting passage as the writer of Hebrews is showing and proving Jesus is God - and supreme over all other created things. (The anointed one of God!)

In **Luke 4:18**, Jesus is in His home-town synagogue, and He walks to the front of the room, takes one of the scrolls and unrolls it to this passage (Isaiah 61:1) and He reads it - rolls it back up and sits down. Then He begins to apply the passage to Himself.

“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:21)

Jesus is the *anointed one of God* - and He was appointed by God to reveal the Father to the world - and to represent the will of the Father through His teaching and life.

A prophet spoke the words of God

The function of the prophet was to represent God to the people - and one of the ways the prophet accomplished this lofty task was to bring a message from God to the people.

All throughout the O.T. - some 3,800x, the Bible declares, “God said,” or “Thus says the Lord” (Source: <https://bible.org/seriespage/4-bible-written-word-god>) - and almost all of these passages were the written words of God’s prophets or the verbal messages they delivered to God’s people. The N.T. clearly teaches that the bible is God’s inspired word - not written by the thoughts and imaginations of human authors, but “...men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21)

Jesus was incredibly clear on whose behalf He spoke.

John 12:49

“For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me has Himself given Me a commandment -- what to say and what to speak.”

Jesus was God incarnate (in human flesh), and He was perfectly obedient to the will of the Father in all He said and all He did.

Not only did Jesus claim to be a prophet and claim to speak the words of the Father, but in John 1 He is referred to as “The Word”. He didn’t just speak the words of the Father, but He was the very truth of the Father’s words.

Hebrews 1:1

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son...”

Jesus was the greatest prophet - the perfect and complete fulfillment of the office and title of prophet.

Most of His teaching was filled with positive truth.

What I mean by this is probably illustrated best in His Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5-7** where Jesus explains the essence of the Law of Moses. In that sermon, He helps you understand obedience is not simply an issue of external compliance to the Law - but more importantly an issue of your heart's compliance and joy in the Law.

Jesus taught God's truth with authority which was previously unknown...and He taught with great clarity and tore through all the '*clutter*' which the religious establishment had erected over the centuries.

The prophets of the O.T. often spoke the positive truth of God, the love of God for His people and the future blessings of God for those who follow Him, **but there were times they also brought a message of confrontation and stinging rebuke and condemnation due to Israel's disobedience** - and Jesus also spoke very stern warnings and of coming judgment - mainly to the religious leaders who were abusing the Law and abusing the people they were supposed to be caring for and leading. It's interesting - the first major public event of Jesus' ministry is in **John 2:14-16** - at Passover - where John says:

“In the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

15 And making a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And He poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

16 And He told those who sold the pigeons, ‘Take these things away; do not make My Father's house a house of trade.’”

His last major public act was recorded by **Mark** - on the Tuesday before His crucifixion - once again, Jesus enters the Temple during Passover week.

And they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.

16 And He would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

17 And He was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a den of robbers.’” **Mark 11:15-17**

His last public sermon was a condemnation against the Scribes and Pharisees - the religious leaders in Israel - and it's recorded in **Matthew 23**, and it's called “*The Seven Woes*” and it's a blistering indictment of their sinful heart and sinful leadership.

Prophets spoke the words of God - Jesus spoke the words of His Father - sometimes positive and encouraging truth - and sometimes a stinging indictment of the people's sin and of future judgment unless they repent.

Prophets were often persecuted and rejected by the people

Jeremiah is the most famous of the prophets who was persecuted and rejected - along with Elijah.

Hebrews 11 records the unfortunate treatment of those God had appointed and anointed to be His mouthpiece to the nation of Israel.

“Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated...” (Hebrews 11:37)

The reward of a prophet was not in this life - but in the next life.

Their reward (in this life) was the close relationship they had with the Father - and the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in their life.

Their reward was in their faithful service to God - no matter what the cost was in this life.

Of course, Jesus suffered throughout His ministry as He was persecuted and rejected time and time again - culminating in the ultimate rejection as the religious leaders of Israel and so many of the people yelled “Crucify Him, crucify Him” - and they pleaded for the release of Barabbas instead.

Apply it...

We are called to imitate Christ - to be 'Christ-like' in our every day life. So, as we understand the title / office of prophet which Jesus fulfilled in all perfection, let us consider the following ways we can follow His example.

Speak God's truth in your daily life.

A prophet represented and revealed God's Word to the people - we are called to do the same - with "gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15)

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Colossians 4:6)

Live in the power of God each day.

You have been anointed by God (through the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence in your life)

2 Corinthians 1:21

"And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."

1 John 2:27

"But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you..."

Like the prophets of old, those who believe in Christ have also been anointed by God to do His work.

Live in the power of the Spirit of God - and allow Him to work in you and through you in powerful ways.

You have been appointed by God to be His ambassador - not simply a church attender.

2 Corinthians 5:20

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

As a Christian, you are called - appointed to so much more than simply attending church.

Take an honest look at your life...are you truly an ambassador for Christ each day?

Be prepared for rejection and persecution

Speaking the truth of God into daily life...

Living in a way which is distinct from the culture...

Bringing Jesus into your conversations through word and deed...

These are what we're called to do...but these may result in you being marginalized.

You may be ignored...ridiculed...mocked...rejected or persecuted.

Illus. On Twitter this past Wednesday, Marco Rubio tweeted a few verses: **John 15:5** and then **Proverbs 17:3** - this is not unusual for him. However, this time, the reaction was quite negative, and a headline stated: **‘Marco Rubio Triggers Twitter Freak-out by Quoting Bible’**

A few of the “freak-out’ tweets:

- *“Marco Rubio is tweeting out Bible verses this morning. This is oddly terrifying.”*
- *“Stand up to @realDonaldTrump & GOP or shut up. You’re an embarrassment to the USA.”*
- *“Oh mother of gawd...are you kidding us? Save it for Sunday and get your **** to work. You have to save the GOP
###.”*
- *“GOP Senator @marcorubio is tweeting out Bible verses this morning, and it’s...unsettling.”*

We live in a post-Christian nation - so don’t be shocked at the potential backlash when you proclaim Christ.

You may also see God work and transform the people in your circle!

We are not responsible for how people respond to the love, grace and truth of Christ - but we are responsible to represent Christ and His truth.

It’s a strong temptation to keep your head down and your mouth shut - and simply go through life without making any waves or making someone uncomfortable with the truth and grace of Jesus.

Resist this temptation, and be prepared like the prophets of the O.T. - and like Jesus - and like the Apostles - to suffer for the name of Jesus if necessary.

Acts 5:41-42 (Peter & the Apostles - after being imprisoned and beaten, then told not to speak in the name of Jesus)

“Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name.”

42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

Close in prayer