

# GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

## 42 – The Prophet Jesus

### Announcements:

9/20 @6:30 -

Women's  
Bible Study

9/21 @7:00 -

Prayer

9/22 @6:30 -

Grace Group

9/25 @8:30 -

Sunday School

**ICE BREAKER:** What is your dream job?

**READ:** Matthew 13:53-58

If someone were to ask you: “what does Jesus do” how would you answer? You could describe what he has done for you, you could say he saves and redeems people, and that would be a correct answer. You could answer based on things that Jesus has said he does, he prepares a place for us (John 14:3) and he sends us the Holy Spirit (John 15:26). The writer of Hebrews tells us he intercedes for us (7:25). We could go on and on, and all of these are right, however one of my favorite ways to answer this question is with what we would call the “Threefold Office”. What does Jesus do? He is a prophet, priest and king. In our text for today Jesus claims one of those, and we will be looking at it today: prophet.

What does it mean to say that Jesus is a prophet? Well many things, but one of the most fundamental things is that he speaks with the authority of God. Often when we think of prophets we think of soothsayers, people who can predict the future, but that is really not the job. While it is true that often God would give prophets insight into what would happen (for a variety of reasons, not the least of which was to give credence to the rest of their message) what is more important is that they would go to the people and proclaim: “these are the words of the Lord!” They would come with a message of condemnation, or encouragement, a challenge to remember the promises of God, etc but they did so not with their own authority, but with God’s. This is what makes the fact that Jesus is our prophet even more incredible. For when Jesus speaks he can simultaneously say: I have said (see the Sermon on the Mount) and God has said!

**DISCUSS:** In what other ways is it important to see the authority of Jesus in speaking as God’s prophet?

While the visible work of the prophet is important, there are other facts about the job of prophet that tell us a lot too. One of the most important ones is that prophets are empowered by the Spirit. It is not in the prophets' own strength and might that they did the will of the Lord, rather the Spirit was given them to do great and mighty works. We don't often think of Jesus being full of the spirit, but this is the testimony of Scripture. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, at his baptism we see the “Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest upon him” (Matthew 3:16), as John tells us that he has been given the “Spirit without measure” (3:34; that he then, and here's the point, gives to us!). But again, because of who Jesus is, even this is a more incredible version of all other prophets, for Jesus, being fully God then filled with the Spirit is a beautiful picture of how the Trinity works. It is not as if Jesus was wandering around here on earth as the lost second person of the Trinity, rather in all the works of God we see the persons of the Trinity united, So here we can see that the Father sends, the Son comes and the Spirit empowers all for the work of saving us!

**DISCUSS:** Why is it important to know that Jesus was empowered by the Spirit?

After looking at the authority of the message, and the empowering Spirit behind the message, we can close by looking at the content of the message. While there have been many prophets with many different particular messages, there is one theme that unites all their messages: salvation and judgment. Really these are two sides of the same coin. By way of example, let us look at the message of the prophet Jonah who proclaimed: “Yet forty days, and Nineveh will be overthrown!” (Jonah 3:4) this is on the surface level judgment, but if we know the story of Jonah we know that this message was used for salvation! Similarly Isaiah spoke of both the exile and the suffering servant. So too with Jesus, as Prophet he brings a message of salvation and judgment, but in this we see BOTH are found in him! For he is the way the truth and the life and he is also the one who is coming to rule with a rod of iron. Again, knowing he is our prophet gives beauty to this, he doesn't bring just the *message* of salvation and judgment, rather they are found in him!

**DISCUSS:** Why must we keep both these thoughts in mind when we think of Jesus?