

Jesus Christ as Prophet and Teacher

Christology Course Class 3

Scripture: Jesus as Prophet/Teacher

Matthew 5:2 (Matthew 5-7 Sermon on the Mount)

John 8:31-32

John 14:6

John 17:6, 26

John 18:37

Prophet as Teacher in the Old Testament/The Messiah as Prophet and Teacher

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Old Testament Prophet as Teacher – Three Functions

- 1) Teaching the truth
- 2) Foretelling the future
- 3) Judging sin

Jesus fills all three of these prophetic functions as teacher.

Isaiah 9:6 “Wonderful counsellor”

Psalms 119:105 “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path.”

Deductions from the Messianic Teaching Motif in the Bible

1. God is a God of truth.
2. God is intellect and truth extends from God’s mind and goodness.
3. There is truth that is transcendent, objective, and absolute.
4. The revelation that God gives teaches truth, giving knowledge of the truth.
5. Humans are created to know God’s truth.
6. Sin darkens our hearts and souls to keep us from knowing and understanding truth.
 - a. Ephesians 4:18
 - b. John 3:19
 - c. 1 Corinthians 2:14-16
7. Salvation in Jesus brings the light of truth to us, and gives us the ability to understand the truth.
 - a. The Christian life is a life of God’s truth manifested through our humanity.
 - b. Heaven and the eschatos will be filled with truth and light.

Revelation 22:5 “There will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illuminate them; and they will reign forever and ever.”

Summary of Categories of Jesus as Prophet and Teacher from the Gospel Accounts

1. Jesus as the Logos – John 1:1, 14
 - a. Jesus is the meaning behind all material reality. (See also: Col. 1:16-17)
 - b. Jesus is the conveyance of communication from God to humanity in fleshly form. (See also: John 14:9; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3)
2. Jesus and the Old Testament Law
 - a. Jesus asserts the authority of the Old Testament and the moral law.
 - b. Jesus interprets the O.T. moral law in the gospel.
 - c. Jesus extends the moral law into the future of the kingdom.
3. Jesus and His Commandments
 - a. Jesus shows the underneath side of the O.T. moral law.
 - b. Jesus centers moral law in love.
 - c. Jesus applies all truth to Himself in a supremely authoritative fashion.
 - d. Jesus applies the teaching of the O.T. in Christian discipleship.
4. Jesus and His Teachings
 - a. Jesus teaches in didactic passages.
 - b. Jesus teaches in parabolic passages.
 - c. Jesus teaches in His behavior.
 - d. Jesus teaches in His response to God the Father.
 - e. Jesus teaches in His response to people.
5. Jesus and His Admonitions, Corrections, and His Encouragement
 - a. Jesus teaches in His rebukes.
 - b. Jesus teaches in His corrections.
 - c. Jesus teaches in His encouragement.

Jesus as Prophet and the Gospel

1. Jesus and the Written Word of God
 - a. Jesus affirms the O.T. Scriptures.
 - b. Jesus equates His authority with Scripture.
 - i. “You have heard it said, but I say to you.” (Matthew 5:21ff)
2. Jesus and the Essential Components of the Gospel Message
 - a. Jesus establishes the teaching of the gospel in His historical life experience.
 - i. Cross
 - ii. Resurrection
 - b. Jesus claims Lordship, calling believers to obey Him and follow Him.
 - c. Jesus teaches on the kingdom of God.
3. Jesus and the Proclamation of the Gospel
 - a. Jesus gives the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20).
 - b. Jesus sends His people out to make disciples.
 - c. Jesus teaches on the establishment of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8).

Attacks on Jesus as Prophet

1. Attacks on Jesus' Authority
2. Attacks on Jesus' Teaching
3. Expressions of these Attacks:
 - a. Pharisees
 - b. Attacks in today's world
4. Fashion of these attacks:
 - a. Ontological attacks:
 - i. Attacks on the existence of transcendent and objective truth.
 - ii. Attacks on the person of God.
 - iii. Attacks asserting subjective foundations for truth.
 - b. Attacks on the Bible as God's revelation.
 - i. Attacks on preaching the Bible.
 - ii. Attacks on the use of the Bible.
 - c. Attacks on human epistemology.
 - i. Asserting that humans cannot know truth.
 - ii. Asserting that humans are the foundation for truth.
 - iii. Asserting that humans become the means by which truth is validated.

Colossians 1:24 "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am supplementing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions in behalf of His body, which is the church."

Jesus Teaching Disciples (Thomas Watson wrote on this in his "Body of Divinity")

1. Jesus gives His disciples by giving a taste for the Word.
2. Jesus teaches transcendent, absolute, holy truth that engages life at its most practical level in our thinking and in our behavior.
3. God's revelation of truth in the Bible gives the knowledge of truth.
4. Humans are created to know truth and to love truth; thus, our salvation awakens and creates our ability to know truth, love truth, and enjoy truth.
5. Sin makes us darkened in mind and turns us against truth (Eph. 4:18; John 3:19).

Final Thoughts

Jesus is the teacher and prophet of truth today. He speaks to His sheep through the Word of God illuminated by the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we must be committed to the Bible, learn how to interpret the Bible, and committed to living in obedience to the Bible, seeking to follow and honor Jesus Christ in our lives. In a society where there are many ways that people seek to distract and deter us from this task, as Christians, we must always pray and earnestly work to remain faithful to our Savior and His teaching from the Scripture.