

Christ – The Prophet

There are ways we relate to people according to the relationship we have with them. As a father, I impart wisdom to my daughters. I nurture their growth with love and guidance so they can navigate life with confidence and grace. As a husband, I am my wife's truest friend. I share in every joy and trial with unwavering love and companionship as we build our dreams together. As a brother, I stand as a steadfast ally to my siblings. I cherish our shared journey and offer support through life's seasons. As a pastor, I am a shepherd to the congregation. My role is to disciple, guide and offer comfort in trials, and to point to the hope and truth found in Christ.

As we worship Christ, the God/Man, we become one with Him in His mission to reach others with the Gospel. In our partnership with Him, we are going to explore three different ways He relates to us in the roles of Prophet, Priest, and King. In short, as Prophet, He calls us to repentance. As Priest, He redeems us. As King, He reigns over us. These three are the classic roles of Christ that correspond to the leadership found in Israel. They are biblically grounded, theologically comprehensive, and historically central to understanding Christ's mission. Other roles, such as Shepherd or Redeemer, are equally important but are often viewed as expressions or extensions of these three primary offices. In the Old Testament, the offices of Priest and King were entirely separate. For example, in 2 Chronicles 26, Uzziah was warned by the High Priest and 80 other priests not to step into the role of the priest. He did and was stricken by God with leprosy. A priest or a king had specific *official* roles in Old Testament Israel, yet God could use individuals in, or out of, these offices to proclaim His Word when He willed. Where the other roles were by anointment, the office of the prophet occurred as needed and was also a major role of leadership.

1. Christ's office of prophet -

Jesus as a prophet was declared in a major way in the book of Deuteronomy. Moses had suffered the spiritual fickleness and sin of the Israelites for 40 years. In his final pronouncements as they were finally ready to enter the Promised Land, Moses warned them of the abominations of the people of the land. He predicted that there would be a major deliverer, like him, who would come.

Deut 18:15-19 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well *spoken that* which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require *it* of him.

If Israel were to fail respond to the cry of *that* prophet, it would be required of them to give a great accounting. Peter, speaking by the Holy Spirit, preached this to the Jewish leadership after the Resurrection of Christ.

Acts 3:22,23 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Stephen repeated this same warning:

Acts 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

The Samaritan woman ultimately figured out that Jesus was the Prophet:

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

The 5,000 who were fed figured out that Jesus was the Prophet:

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

The people at the raising of the widow's son figured out that Jesus was the Prophet:

Luke 7:16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

The people recognized Him as the Prophet at the Feast of Tabernacles:

John 7:40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

On the road to Emmaus, the disciples recognized Christ was the Prophet:

Luke 24:19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus

of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

Jesus was the ultimate Prophet who not only spoke for God but was God speaking.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word [**Logos**], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Logos refers to the preexistent divine Word, the eternal self-expression of God that became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Christ is the perfect expression of the Father: His visible, audible, and embodied revelation. To hear and see Christ is to hear and see the Father

Heb 1:1-3 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Heb 3:1-6 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house.

3 For this *man* was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

4 For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God.

5 And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

2. Christ's work as prophet -

There are two major messages of prophets: judgment and repentance. Prophetic messages of judgment are balanced with God's desire for restoration. It highlights the twofold role of the prophet: 1. To call out sin and warn of consequences. 2. To guide people back to God, offering a path of renewal and a vision of hope for the future.

- Judgment

Prophets delivered warnings about the consequences of sin, rebellion, and disobedience to God. These messages often exposed the people's sins and pointed to impending consequences, such as exile, destruction, or divine punishment.

Jer 25:8-11 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words,

9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the

candle.

11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, *and* an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Sometimes people forget that Jesus regularly condemned sin. They forget this and portray Him as a soothing guru leading us to a divine tranquility and inner peace. Christ was down to earth calling people out in their sin. Sometimes He did this clinically but other times He took stronger measures.

Matt 23:13-15,27,33 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.

33 *Ye* serpents, *ye* generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

- Repentance (Instruction and Hope)

Alongside judgment, prophets always carried a call to repentance – a turning back to God. These messages included instruction and hope. The people were given practical and spiritual guidance for returning to faithfulness.

Mic 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

The prophets' message could also give assurance of God's mercy, forgiveness, and restoration if the people repented. Prophets often pointed to a future where God would restore His people and bring ultimate salvation.

Joel 2:12,13,27 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye *even* to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

...

27 And ye shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and *that* I *am* the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Jesus does not just comfort us in the consequences of our sin, He calls us to repentance which leads to the expectation of security in Christ.

Mark 1:14-15 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Look at the message of hope we find in the Beatitudes, the blessings of Jesus. Some have made a play on the word Beatitudes and called them the *Beautiful Attitudes*.

Matt 5:3-12 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom

of heaven.

4 Blessed *are* they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they
shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed *are* they which do
hunger and thirst after
righteousness: for they shall be
filled.

7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for
they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.

9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the
children of God.

10 Blessed *are* they which are
persecuted for righteousness'
sake: for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall
revile you, and persecute *you*,
and shall say all manner of evil
against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding
glad: for great *is* your reward in
heaven: for so persecuted they
the prophets which were before
you.

We have to be careful though, not to get lopsided with the message of hope that is not counterbalanced by the message of repentance. It's like the preacher who, without any evidence, assumes that everything is going to be okay when the world is still persecuting many to martyrdom:

I want to encourage you today: no matter where you are or what you're facing, God's plans for you are bigger and better than you can imagine. You may have setbacks, disappointments, or unanswered prayers, but don't let those discourage you. Remember, God's timing is perfect, and He hasn't brought you this far to leave you. What looks like a delay is often a setup for something greater. Keep believing, keep dreaming, and keep moving forward. You are

loved, chosen, and equipped for every good work. The same God who spoke the universe into existence is speaking life, favor, and abundance over you right now. Your best days are still ahead of you, and blessings are chasing you down. Stay in faith, and watch how God exceeds your expectations. You're closer than you think!

Can you imagine such a rosy message like this if Paul had heard it? He might have said, "Yeah, sign me up!" When he would have inquired what were the great blessings he was going to receive, God would have said, "Oh, it's going to be so great! I'm going to send you to the mission field. Everywhere you go your countrymen are going to turn on you. The philosophers are going to ridicule you. You're going to be beaten with rods three times and stoned and left for dead once. You're going to be in perils wherever you go. You're going to be hungry and cold. You're converts are going to question you. But don't worry, it gets even better after that!" Paul might have said, "Wow, do I have success in the end?" God would say to Him, "Yes! You get beheaded after that!"

Paul *was* blessed, but it was not with a mansion, a yacht, and a string of polo ponies. After having been persecutor of Christians, Paul *first* came before the Lord with repentance:

1Tim 1:11-15 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

15 This *is* a faithful saying, and

worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Paul was blessed, but it was while he was in the midst of sorrows. In the end, yes, he waited to receive the abundance, but it was in heaven.

Phil 3:8-14 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The message of hope is founded on repentance but it is not that we then enter into a utopia instantly. It is a message that if we follow Christ it will lead to a life of meaning and purpose in a troubled world with the *final* reward of a mansion in glory with streets of gold.

3. The problem with prophets -

There is a problem with prophets. It's not a problem that *prophets* have, themselves, but problems that *people* have *concerning* prophets. Prophets preach, but people resist preaching.

Jesus warned the people of their unwillingness to submit to the prophets.

Matt 13:57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. **[Familiarity breeds contempt. Later, we read that Jesus' own brothers and sisters didn't believe on Him.]**

Matt 23:29-31 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,
30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.
31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Paul was loved by the Galatians...until he gave them the truth.

Gal 4:14-16 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked

out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Prophets preach knowing that people will not always bear it.

2Tim 4:2-4 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

There are so many times where we have seen the problems coming down the road for people. The warnings from Scripture were given, but people have ignored them because they were too inconvenient and too hard to expect them to repent. Years later we have seen the sad fruit that comes from those bad decisions. God is going to bless us as we go through difficulties, but some of the worst difficulties can be avoided if we were ready to obey the Lord.

Jesus stands at the door and knocks, but *we* have to open the door. Preachers have been described as anointed when people like what they say, but we have to be careful to listen with anointed ears.

Rev 3:20-22 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The greatest blessing you can have is eternal life, not a sales pitch for a time share in a vacation resort. You can have eternal life, but you have to heed Jesus as the prophet calling you to repentance. If you find yourself saying to yourself that, yes, you *should* do this, that is the Holy Spirit prompting you to repentance.

Perhaps you have already given your eternal life to Jesus, but there is something in that is holding you back. Due to our fleshly nature, there might be many such moments between now and the day we go on to glory, but we need to repent and press on to the work Jesus has given us. We need to be diligent to learn God's Word to strengthen our resolve. Being faithful to receive the Word and do the work with accountability will help us in the day when we are need to serve God with *all* thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (Matt 22:37).

When you go to get hired on a job, do you tell your prospective boss that every once in a while during the week you will be taking a day off here or there, but he shouldn't expect you to let him know? Also, when he comes looking for someone to do a special assignment, don't be surprised that he won't be able to find you. Let him know that he should never expect you to learn anything more than some basic functions and that he can count on you to do them...sometimes...if you feel like it. And then, if he really needs to find you working, he might look for you to be helping out at some other place that can't count on you either. When it comes to serving God, repent so you will hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matt 25:23)

1. Christ's office of prophet - Deut 18:15-19, Acts 3:22,23, 7:37, John 4:19, 6:14, Luke 7:16, John 7:40, Luke 24:19, John 1:1 Heb 1:1-3, Heb 3:1-6
2. Christ's work as prophet - Jer 25:8-11, Matt 23:13-15,27,33 , Mic 6:8, Joel 2:12,13,27, Mark 1:14-15, Matt

5:3-12, 1Tim 1:11-15, Gal 2:20, Phil 3:8-14

3. The problem with prophets - Matt 13:57, 23:29-31, Gal 4:14-16, 2Tim 4:2-4, Rev 3:20-22