

Word of Life Lutheran Brethren Church  
Community Group Bible Study – week of Jan. 25  
Jesus our great Prophet -

In Matt 5:17 Jesus declared that he had not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets but to fulfill them. The Law & Prophets that he was speaking of is what we call the Old Testament. What Jesus meant was that he was not a rejection or replacement for what God had said in the past rather *he was the fulfillment of them*. In the OT there were three primary offices that existed within the nation of Israel; prophet, priest and king. It is helpful for us to understand how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of these three offices.

Over the next few weeks we will consider the origin and function of these offices, how they are fulfilled by Jesus, and why it matters to believers today. This week we will consider the prophets and their role as God's mouthpiece.

*Open with prayer as you begin. Pray specifically for the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind in order to understand God's Word.*

What is a prophet? What does a prophet do?

Is there a difference between a prophet and a fortune teller? What is it?

The word translated "prophet" seems to have the idea "called" as its first emphasis: God takes the initiative, selects, summons, and sends the prophet (e.g., Jer 1:4–5; 7:25; Am 7:14).<sup>1</sup> The OT examples are clear that people did not choose to be prophets rather they were chosen and called by God. The prophets spoke God's Word to the people of Israel; words of instruction, words of judgment and condemnation, words of comfort and restoration, words of future calamities and words of future hope and glory. They were God's mouthpiece to His people.

Read Jeremiah 1:4-19.

Did Jeremiah want to be a prophet? How do you think people responded to him?

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<sup>1</sup>Elwell, Walter A. ; Comfort, Philip Wesley: *Tyndale Bible Dictionary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House Publishers, 2001 (Tyndale Reference Library), S. 1085

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How do people react when they are confronted with their sin? How do you react?

How did people in the OT react to God's prophets?

OK, so the prophets spoke for God. They condemned the people when they sinned and spoke about comfort and restoration when they responded in repentance. But what does Jesus have to do with the prophets? How is Jesus the ultimate Prophet?

Read Deut 18:14-22

Who is Moses talking about?

But if Jesus is a prophet how does He differ from the other prophets? The prophets of the OT declared things like; "These are the words of the Lord..." and "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says..." They spoke in this way because they were not speaking their own words. But Jesus was different.

Open your Bible to Matt 5. Look at the following verses and notice how Jesus speaks: vv. 21-22; vv. 27-28; vv. 31-32; vv. 33-34; vv. 38-39; vv. 43-44. What's different from the OT prophets?

Why did Jesus speak with such authority?

We typically focus on what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross, and rightly so! But Jesus also spoke the truth to people about their sin and called people to repentance. The cross doesn't mean much to someone who doesn't realize a need for forgiveness.

Read Matt 19:16-22

How does Jesus speak prophetically into the young man's life?

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How does the man respond to Jesus' prophetic voice?

Jesus still speaks in a prophetic voice. He speaks through his Word. The Word of God is read, heard, preached and taught. Through it the Holy Spirit still convicts, comforts, instructs and empowers. How will you respond to Jesus' prophetic voice in your life?

*As you close in prayer ask that Jesus, our great prophet, would speak truth into your life. Pray that he would reveal your own sin and your need for a Savior. Thank him that not only is he our great Prophet, but also that he is our great High Priest. May God's Peace be with all of you.*