

Word of Life Lutheran Brethren Church
Community Group Bible Study – week of Feb. 15th
Prophet, Priest & King – Mark 8:27-38

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.

As we have looked at the offices of Jesus we've considered each individually. This week we will consider how they all work together in our lives to lead us into a right relationship with God. We'll consider one passage from the Gospel of Mark that includes all 3 roles in a unique context.

Read Mark 8:27-30

Why would people generally associate Jesus with the prophets? Were they right?

I love how Jesus sets up the disciples for a very important and personal question. By asking an impersonal question about what "people" say about him, Jesus sets the stage for a very direct and personal one. "Who do YOU say that I am?" There was no way to schwaflle and wiggle their way out of answering or giving a less than direct response. Peter, as usual, is the first to speak up and rightly declare that Jesus is the Christ.

In these verses we see Jesus the Prophet confronting his own disciples with the truth about who he really is.

Did Peter understand what he was saying?

What did most people expect the "Christ" to do? They expected him to assume the throne of David and restore the kingdom of Israel to its past glory. They expected that he would lead a revolution and defeat the Romans and cleanse their homeland from all outside influences and religions. The disciples could not have been immune from such expectations.

Read Mark 8:31-33

Immediately following Peter's confession that Jesus was the Christ Jesus begins to teach the disciples that he will turn their expectations of the Christ upside-down, by teaching them about his Priestly role.

Why might this be disappointing to the disciples?

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Can you sympathize with Peter? Why?

What role does Peter react to so negatively?

Why does Jesus put Peter down so harshly?

When or how do we have in mind the “things of men” in opposition to the “things of God”?

As soon as Jesus is finished a private lesson with his disciples about his coming sacrifice as Priest, he invites all the people present to come and listen.

Read Mark 8:34-38

Who has the authority to make demands like this?

All three of the roles work together, continually revealing sin, declaring forgiveness and calling the believer to live the Spirit filled life of service. But what happens when we have a deficient understanding of these roles? What happens when we over or under emphasize one or more of these roles?

What would a deficient understand of Jesus’ prophetic role look like?

What would a deficient understand of Jesus’ priestly role look like?

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What would a deficient understand of Jesus' kingly role look like?

None of us has a perfect understanding of God. All of us have deficiencies in our theology and have suffered to consequences in our lives. If you see yourself in these errors you are not alone. So listen to the Prophetic voice of Jesus, cling to the forgiveness and grace offered to you by your Priest, and then serve your King with a clean conscience and grateful heart. Amen.

Close in prayer.