

Jesus as prophet, priest and king

(Luk 19:37-48 ESV) As he was drawing near – already on the way down the Mount of Olives – the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." ⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation." ⁴⁵ And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶ saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers." ⁴⁷ And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, ⁴⁸ but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

How do we see Christ portrayed as prophet, priest and king in the above passage?

A. Christ as prophet

1. "Prophet" = one who represents God to the people – speaks God's word to His people — reveals God's will and calls the people to follow it
2. Jesus claimed to be a prophet
 - a. *(Luk 4:16-21 ESV) And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (emphasis added)*
 - b. *(Mat 12:41 ESV) The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.*
 - c. *(Luk 13:33 ESV) Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.*
 - d. *(Joh 8:39-40 ESV) They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did."*

B. How did Jesus fulfill His role as prophet?

1. Through what He said/taught

- a. (Heb 1:1-2 ESV) *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*
- b. (Joh 8:28 ESV) *So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me."*
- c. (Mar 1:21-22 ESV) *And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.*
- d. Even before His incarnation: (1Pe 1:10-11 ESV) *Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.*
- e. Jesus not only spoke God's word, He was/is the Word
 - 1) (Joh 1:1 ESV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
 - 2) (Joh 1:18 ESV) *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

2. Through how He lived – how He lived His life reveals God to us and God's will for us

a. Serve others:

- 1) (Mar 10:42-45 ESV) *And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
- 2) (Joh 13:14-15 ESV) *If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

b. Love others:

- 1) (Joh 13:34 ESV) *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

c. Endure suffering:

- 1) (1Pe 2:20-21 ESV) *For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*

d. We couldn't really know God if we only had creation

1) We could know/extrapolate a few things about God from universe:

- a) Powerful; Great artist (universe is beautiful); Intelligent (complexity)
 - i) (Rom 1:20 ESV) *For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, ^ahave been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*
- b) Merciless (universe is dangerous and terrifying); No friend of man

- 2) Jesus did more than tell us what God said, He showed us Who God is
 - a) (Joh 1:17-18 ESV) *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* ¹⁸ *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*
3. Through the cross – the cross is prophetic, teaching us of the love and justice of God
 - a. (1Co 1:17-18 ESV) *For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.* ¹⁸ *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*
 - b. (Col 2:13-14 ESV) *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,* ¹⁴ *by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*
 - c. “In fact, the cross is meant to completely reshape how we see the world. No one saw this more clearly than Martin Luther. He spoke often of the difference between theologians of glory and theologians of the cross....A theologian of glory might reason that because God is great and mighty, the way to heaven must be to become great and mighty too, lording it over others. The theologian of the cross understands that greatness in this kingdom is found in humility and service.” [Jonty Rhodes, *Man of Sorrows, King of Glory* (Crossway: 2021), p.67]
4. Through complete obedience, in contrast to Adams
 - a. (Rom 5:19 ESV) *For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous*
- C. That was then (“humiliation”), but what about now (“exaltation”)?
1. Through Scripture
 - a. (Joh 14:25-26 ESV) *These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.* ²⁶ *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*
 - b. (Col 3:16 ESV) *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*
2. Through preaching
 - a. (Rom 10:14,17 ESV) *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?...* ¹⁷ *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
 - b. (Tit 1:1-3 ESV) *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,* ² *in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began* ³ *and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior*
 - c. Preaching today
 - 1) Martin Luther: “Tis a right excellent thing, that every honest pastor’s and preacher’s mouth is Christ’s mouth.” [Jonty Rhodes, *Man of Sorrows, King of Glory* (Crossway: 2021), p.121, referenced to John Calvin, *Sermons on 1 Timothy*, trans. Robert White (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2018, 337.)]

- 2) Calvin: “When someone goes up into the pulpit... it is so that God should speak to us by the mouth of men and should favour us with his presence.” [Rhodes, p.121, referenced to a quote from Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*, ed. G.W. Bromiley and T.F. Torrance (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1936), 1.1:96.)]
 - a) They didn’t think that preachers were infallible and understood that when a preacher misteaches a Bible text that God is no longer speaking – but still saw preachers’ words as more than just words about God

D. Do we also have a prophetic role?

1. Through what we say
 - a. (1Pe 2:9 ESV) *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*
 - b. (Rom 10:13-17 ESV) *For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
2. Through how we live
 - a. (1Pe 3:15-16 ESV) *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*
 - b. (Mat 5:16 ESV) *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*