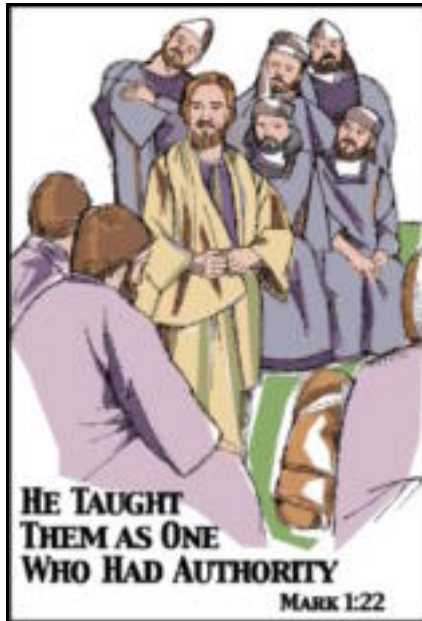


LESSON 4



JESUS WAS A PROPHET

Scripture Texts: *Deuteronomy 18:18-22; John 7:37-40; 12:48-50*

Foretelling future events is only one phase of prophecy. Whenever a person speaks a message given him by the Holy Spirit it is prophecy and he is a prophet. The message may be doctrine, reproof, instruction, comfort, warning, or prediction of coming events. If it comes direct from God to His servant who speaks it is prophecy.

Jesus came from God the Father, spoke the Words of the Father, and did the works of the Father. He was a specially chosen Prophet of God. We must obey every Word He has spoken for this will judge us at the final judgment.

MEMORY VERSE: *And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways.* *Luke 1:76*

The Promise of a Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:18-19 When God met Moses on Mt. Sinai to give to Israel His law, the people waiting below were frightened by the manifestation of God in thunderings, lightnings, loud trumpet, and the mountain smoking. They asked that God not speak to them directly, **lest we die** (Exodus 20:18,19). God promised **a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee**—like Moses, a man. **Whosoever will not hearken . . . he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.** Disobedience to the Words of this Prophet was to bring guilt and severe punishment. Why? Because the Words of this Prophet would be the Words of God.

Marks of a Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 False prophets will come. The penalty for falsely prophesying was death. But many, possibly thousands, would be misled by those deceivers before judgment came. God gave Israel a measuring rod: words of a true prophet would come to pass. The marks of a true prophet are:

- (1) A true prophet of God comes from God.
- (2) He speaks the Words of God.
- (3) His prophecy comes to pass.

Are there any false prophets among the people today? Jesus said there would be (Matthew 24:24). Peter wrote that there would be (2 Peter 2:1). Yes, they may be found close to all of us. By the following test we can distinguish the false from the true:

- (1) Is he sent by God?
- (2) Does his life manifest the spirit and graces of a follower of Jesus?
- (3) Does he speak the Words of God? Since all truth agrees, the words and spirit of a true prophet must agree with the Word of God, the Bible.

- (4) Do his words come to pass? Do his teachings produce godly results?
- (5) Are his prayers answered?

To be able to judge between false and true prophets two things are of utmost importance:

- (1) A knowledge of God's Word.
- (2) An indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Prophesied

John 7:37-40 Around 1500 years after God promised to send a Prophet, Jesus came to earth and taught. He said, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.** He gave a supply that satisfies those who receive it and overflows to satisfy others (John 4:10-14). **He that believeth on me . . . shall flow rivers of living water.** Here it is again, the great results of believing on Christ. **All things are possible to him that believeth . . . Whosoever believeth in him should not perish . . . He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.** Much is included in what God calls believing. Belief brings action. (**But this spake he of the Spirit . . .**) Only saved people, those cleansed from sin, born anew, can receive the Holy Spirit when they open their hearts to Him and yield all to His rule. **Of a truth this is the Prophet.** Many remembered the promise from years before and believed. He was speaking Words from God.

The Standard of Judgment

John 12:48 **The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.** In Revelation 20:12 we read of the Judgment and are told that **the books were opened.** These books are the Bible, containing God's commands, His truth, by which we are to order our lives. **Another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.** Our lives and God's Word will be compared. If they do not agree, our lives have fallen short of God's standard. The **second death** will be our sad end.

John 12:49-50 **I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say . . . his commandment is life everlasting.** Jesus had all the marks of a true prophet of God:

- (1) Jesus was sent by God.
- (2) He spoke the Words of God.
- (3) The Words He spoke were truth—**life everlasting.**

All the promises of Jesus have proven true. All of His predictions have come to pass so far and we believe the rest will. Jesus left no doubt that He is the Prophet God promised to send.

Jesus is the Mediator between God and man. He is the representative of God to man and the representative of man to God. When He represents God to man He is a Prophet. When He represents man before God He is a Priest. (Yet to be studied.)

JUST A THOUGHT

"To return evil for good is devilish; to return good for good is human; to return good for evil is godly."

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.

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