

### Jesus Is...

Jesus is Living Water, Bread of Life, rest for the weary, Savior of the World, and so much more. The New Testament describes the God-man Jesus in so many powerful ways. We believe and know that Jesus was the Hero of all human history. The story of mankind starts with, comes to its climax, and ends with Jesus. We can unashamedly say, "Jesus is..."

Some have said that every page of scripture screams the name Jesus. Have you ever thought of that? The first 39 books of the Bible seem void of the Son of God. Where is he on the pages of the Old Testament? He is there! Even Jesus proclaimed that the Old Testament was teaching about him (Read Luke 24:27).

If all of the Scripture points to Jesus and His Kingdom than we can firmly say that He's on every page. It all comes down to Jesus.

### Jesus is...Prophet

Whenever God wanted to speak to mankind he would often send a special messenger. There were special cases in which God would send an angelic courier to deliver his message to man. But more often he would appoint a devoted human servant to be his mouthpiece. These men and women were known as *prophets*. Their message often would begin with the statement, "The Lord says..." Throughout Israel's history many *prophets* were sent to the people of God to speak a message from God.

God would reveal his will to these divinely appointed messengers and instruct them to speak exactly what he had revealed to them. The weight of this calling was great. Can you imagine what it would be like to go into a City Council Meeting, look the members in the eyes and say, "I have a message from the Most High God"? This was the life of the *prophet*.

As you read the accounts of the *prophets* in the Old Testament you begin to see that their messages didn't always bring about warm feelings and emotions in the lives of their hearers. Often times the message would lead to the demise of the spokesperson or the ultimately their death. Sometimes the Word of God isn't easy to hear.

The book of Hebrews tells us that in ages past God spoke to us through the *prophets*, but in the fullness of time he sent a better messenger. The mouthpiece of God is the actual Voice of God. Jesus is that *Prophet* (Read Hebrews 1:1-2; John 8:28, 14:10). As you have read in the Gospel of John we see that Jesus was sent by God to proclaim the word of God. John 1 actually refers to Jesus as the WORD that not only is from God but also is God. Jesus is a better *prophet* because whenever we hear him speak we hear the actual voice of God in his own dialect/accent. N.T. Wright in his commentary, *John for Everyone*, said, "if you want to know who the true God is, look, long and hard at Jesus."<sup>1</sup> You might say, "If you want to hear what God has to say to you, listen, long and hard to Jesus." Jesus is our Great Prophet!

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<sup>1</sup> Wright, Tom, *John for Everyone Part One*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

### Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are some names for Jesus that you can find in the Bible?
2. Who is Jesus to you? Explain a specific instance when you discovered that description.
3. Where are some places in the Old Testament where Jesus is referred to?
4. What are some words that come to mind when you hear the word prophet?
5. Who are some of the prophets that come to mind?
6. Have you ever thought of Jesus as a prophet? Why or why not?
7. Read Jeremiah 1:4-19. How would you describe a prophet after reading this dialogue between God and Jeremiah? Example: Who does he choose, how does He prepare them, what kind of messages does He send through them?
8. Read Hebrews 3:1-6. What are the comparisons and the differences of Moses and Jesus?
9. Using John 1:8-14 and Exodus 3 and 4, describe what makes Jesus and Moses prophets and how Jesus is the better prophet.

### For Personal Devotion:

1. What would be the biggest challenge being called as a prophet of God?
2. When have you felt specifically called by God to do something?
3. Read Ephesians 2:10. What are the good works God has used you for?
4. How would you describe yourself as God's workmanship? What are your spiritual gifts? What are your strong qualities?
5. Moses tried to persuade God to send someone else (Exodus 3-4), Jeremiah tried to express his weaknesses to God (Jeremiah 1), and Samuel was set aside from birth to live with Eli and become a prophet (1 Samuel). When God sends you out with a word or to do a good work, how do you respond? Do you have a similar response to that of Moses or Jeremiah or do you feel set aside from birth to carry out the work of God?

Memorize Ephesians 2:10 this week.