

Sermon Notes

The Perfect Prophet for Imperfect People

John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:1-2 (pew Bible pgs. 887, 1001)

God spoke. God has spoken. Have you contemplated the implications of such a profound statement? What do these phrases say about Who God is? What truths concerning Him do these phrases convey?

Growing up in a Christian home and environment, I wondered what pagan idols looked like and dismissed the idea that such idols exist in our day. However, taking many trips to India over the past 10 yrs, I was literally educated via experience that such pagan idols exist in our day. Traveling the streets of India we would often be made to navigate around an Idol, a god made of hands, that was positioned in the middle of the highway. What I noticed about these “gods” is they did not speak nor did they move for they were incapable of doing so. None of them called out to us “stop” or “watch out” for they were mute.

God spoke. God has spoken. These phrases indicate to us that, unlike mute idols made with hands, He is capable of communication. He is a person with a personality. He delights in communicating with His subjects, with His Creation, with those whom He created in His image. This God, our God, speaks! He has spoken clearly, purposefully, and loudly through the most Excellent Prophet, the Perfect Prophet, our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus Christ Himself is the God who communicates (John 1:1-3)
2. Jesus Christ Himself is the Message that has been communicated (John 1:4-5)
3. Jesus Christ Himself is the embodiment of communicated Truth (John 1:9-18)
4. Jesus Christ Himself fulfilled the communicated message of redemption (Hebrews 1:1-4)

God spoke. God has spoken. God has communicated to us in both Word and Deed through the most excellent, perfect prophet, Jesus Christ. The Old Testament prophets often received the word in an ashamed way as they were aware of their sinfulness. However, Jesus Christ is the Chosen One, the Sinless One who has spoken, without shame, as He is God Himself. As Paul argues in Colossians 1:19, “For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.” Jesus Christ as the more excellent Prophet did not, like other human prophets, merely speak the message of redemption, He Himself was the fulfillment of redemption. He planned it. He proclaimed. He fulfilled it.

Sermon Reflection Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- Colossians 3:16a

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group or church family from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

1.

2.

3.

Westwood Staff

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DECEMBER

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

29 Christmas Undecorating @ 12pm

31 Church Offices close @ 12pm

JANUARY

1 Happy New Year!

1 Church Offices Closed

5 Deacon Ordinations/Baptisms

8 Life Together "Soup Together" @ 6:30pm

13 GriefShare: Loss of a Spouse @ 6:30pm

18 Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ 7am