
Sermon Text Discussion 12/3/17

“The True Prophet” (Acts 3:17-28) by Eric Bobbitt

Overview

The three leadership offices of the Old Testament (prophet, priest, king) are critical for understanding the incarnation and mission of Christ. He fulfills and completes the purposes of these roles. As the true prophet, Jesus speaks forth from God. Peter’s sermon in Acts 3 proclaims Jesus as the authoritative prophet and reveals the gracious offer of his prophetic ministry.

- 1) Prophets speak the words of God (see Deuteronomy 18:9-22, Ephesians 4:17-24).
- 2) Jesus is the true prophet (see Luke 13:33, Hebrews 1:1-3).
- 3) Jesus prophetically proclaims forgiveness, refreshment, and restoration.

If Jesus is the true prophet, it raises the question of whether we are listening to him or not. What have you been avoiding doing that needs to be done? What sadness or anger have you been hiding that you need to express to Christ? Two final applications to consider are these: 1) Be a herald yourself this Advent season, pointing people to Christ. 2) Respond to the Christmas story in all its fullness.

Quotations

“These three offices of Christ are the key to the purpose of the incarnation.”

“The fact that Jesus is a prophet shows us we have a God who speaks to us. I want you to know ever since the beginning of time it seems like human beings have wanted desperately to have a universe that talked back to them...The reason you want so desperately to have someone else to talk to is because there is.” – Tim Keller

Understanding & Application

- 1) How do the Old Testament offices of prophet, priest, and king help you understand Jesus better?
- 2) Why is it difficult for people (including us!) to accept and submit to an authoritative message from God?
- 3) What is an area of your life that needs to be more fully submitted to Christ’s authority?
- 4) As the true prophet, Jesus makes both serious demands and gracious promises. Do you find yourself gravitating to only one half of this equation? If so, why do you think that is?
- 5) What would it look like for you to be more honest and transparent before Christ?
- 6) What opportunities might this Christmas season provide for you to speak of Jesus?
- 7) The fact that Christ came as the true prophet reminds us that the Christmas story is much richer than simply a baby in a manger. How might you celebrate Christmas with this bigger picture in mind?