

## Week 8

Christ acted as our **substitute**. His suffering and His righteous accomplishments were made for our sake.

### **As our Captain and substitute, He confronted Satan and was tempted by Him**

Mark only says, "Immediately the Spirit impelled Him *to go* out into the wilderness. And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him." (Mark 1:12-13)

It is also recounted in Matthew 4. But, read Luke 4:1-13.

God cannot be tempted with evil, according to James 1:13.

He also suffered rejection, hatred, and death. (John 1:11-12) He was tempted all way like we are (Heb. 4:15)

But the end result of the temptation in the wilderness is Christ's victory over sin. We cannot overcome sin in our fallen state and sinful flesh, so our substitute accomplished what we could not. His righteousness is then applied to us.

### **Prophet, Priest, and King**

No one in the OT ever held all three positions.  
(From Matt Slick at Carm)

#### Christ as Prophet

A prophet of God is someone who reveals God, speaks for God, and communicates to people the truths that God wants them to know. Undoubtedly, Jesus did this when he came to do the will of the Father (Luke 22:42), to reveal the Father (Matt. 11:27), and to speak the things of the Father (John 8:28; 12:49).

In the Old Testament Moses said in Deut. 18:15, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your

countrymen, you shall listen to him.” This prophecy is quoted by Peter in Acts 3:22-23 in reference to Jesus, “Moses said, ‘The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you. 23 ‘And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’”

The context of Acts 3:15-22 makes clear that Peter was speaking of Jesus.

Jesus refers to himself as a prophet.

Luke 13:31-33 -- "Just at that time some Pharisees came up, saying to Him, "Go away and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.’ Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem."

Matt. 13:57 -- "And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his home town, and in his own household.’ 58 And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.."

### Christ as Priest

The priests were the ones in the Old Testament who offered sacrifices to God in order to cleanse sin. Ultimately, all such priests were representations of Jesus who is the True Priest who offered himself as a sacrifice (Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:26-27; 10:12), by which he cleanses us of our sin (1 John 1:7).

But, Jesus is called a priest after the order of Melchizedek. “Where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek,” (Heb. 6:20).

Hebrews 3:1 – “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;”

Heb. 9:11 says, "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation."

As a priest, Jesus is our mediator between God and ourselves – "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus," (1 Tim. 2:5).

It could be said that both the Prophet and the priest stand between God and man. In the case of the prophet, he delivers the word of God, from the top down. In the case of the priest, he delivers the sacrifices of people to God, from bottom to top. So, Jesus is a prophet who delivers the word of God to us and he is also the priest who delivers his sacrifice, on our behalf, to God the father.

## Christ as King

A king is someone who has authority to rule and reign over a group of people. Jesus is just such a king. He is called the King of the Jews by the Magi (Matt. 2:2), and Jesus accepts that title in Matt. 27:11, "Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' And Jesus said to him, 'It is as you say.'"

Matt. 21:5 speaks of Jesus and says, "Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey." Remember, Jesus is King in that he rules and judges. "And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war," (Rev. 19:11). The armies follow him (Rev. 19:14).

The phrase, "Kingdom of God," occurs 66 times in the NASB, most of them in the synoptic gospels. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel," (Mark 1:14). Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come," (Matt. 6:10). Is there a kingdom of God without a King?

## **The persecution of Jesus**

Jesus was persecuted because:

- He was sinless. His presence in the sinful world served to judge them (John 1:5)
- He was persecuted by the Jews for interacting with sinners (Luke 15:2).
- He was hated and judged by the Pharisees and Jewish leaders because He held them guilty (Matt. 23:13-36).
- He physically suffered at the hands of Roman soldiers because He undermined the concept of Caesar worship. ( Matt. 22:15-22, John 19:15)

But, this was all according to God's plan and it served to fulfill the Scriptures that prophesied His suffering (such as Isaiah 53)

Heb. 5:8 - Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

### **The Humiliation of Jesus Christ**

Christ's "humiliation" is the process by which he (though divine) came to earth as a baby, eventually to die on the cross.