

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

¹⁶That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, “Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die.”

¹⁷Then the LORD said to me, “They have done well by saying what they said. ¹⁸I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him. ¹⁹Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die.”

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 4Epi Sermon 2024

A prophet like me

A prophet unlike me

The authority of God/Jesus is taught in the three lessons for today. OT teaches that Jesus is a Prophet. Hebrews teaches that Jesus is a High Priest. The Gospel teaches that Jesus' authority is as the Holy One of God as King and ruler with power over all. Only God could have power and authority over demons. And so, with one word we can combine all three of those 'offices' of Christ into one = Authority. Jesus orders commands and even demons must obey. Jesus orders commands and we will do well to listen to him. Jesus orders commands and rises from the dead on the third day after his death. So, Jesus is God himself with Godly authority which he has and speaks authority.

Some say that as a pastor I am less of an authority and more of an approachable servant. Sometimes I'm not sure if that is good or bad. But maybe it is a little bit of both. Does the way I preach the law convict hearts? Does the way I share the gospel convince convicted hearts of God's free grace? Being approachable or having Authority – which one is best for being a pastor? Yes.

I certainly don't expect people to be amazed at my teaching and preaching because that is for Jesus and not for me. And yet here I stand before you as a called servant of Christ Jesus – with the task of preaching law and the gospel and teaching Jesus authority.

For those who don't care about their sins – there is the law. For those who do care about their sins – there is the gospel. In the same way that I listen to God point out my sins – it is my responsibility and authority to share God's truth.

Admitting that I am a sinner is one way of listening to Jesus my LORD. Trusting in Jesus forgiveness to sinners like me is the same way of listening to Jesus my LORD.

Jesus has called me to preach with authority – not like his but with a kind that reflects his. Moses says that Jesus will be 'like me' as a prophet and leader. Jesus was called by God – is God – and certainly is a leader quoting the Bible directly as His Word of authority. **Jesus is a prophet ...like me and unlike me.**

In Isaiah 61 we hear authority, **“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD[LORD God] is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound,”** Again another Bible passage that needs some more unpacking. The new teaching that so amazed the people at church that day was Jesus' gospel authority. Repent and believe the good news that Jesus came to be our Savior! Jesus was anointed to preach good news – I am called to teach Jesus' good news.

God inspires Moses to teach about the authority of this higher prophet who will have God's Words to reach, teach, preach, and share – similar to part of TLC's mission statement. Jesus perfectly spoke all of God's Words at every moment of time in his earthly ministry. For us he did that perfectly. Forgiven people like you and me have God's same Words of authority that we are honored to learn more and more so we can share. If someone ignores the Words of God that we share – God will hold them accountable, not us. We do our best to serve Jesus our Prophet, Priest and King who has all authority given and now calls us by his authority to listen to him.

A regular, healthy, pattern of reading the Bible is what every soul needs. Can't do that? Then a regular, healthy, pattern of attendance at church is something that the voice of God commands that we publicly listen to Jesus. The Word of God creates, builds and strengthens faith.

Jesus is a Prophet ... like me. Jesus is a prophet unlike me. That is part of every pastor's sermon along with Moses.

We need to listen to everything that God commands Jesus to speak – that's why it is important to listen to him – when we listen to Jesus we hear the voice of eternal God speaking his absolute truth in **absolute authority**. Jesus is a prophet unlike me because he is perfect, he is holy, he doesn't sin, He is God.

When Jesus says, “**all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**” (Mt 28:18-20) ... there is a lot to unpack in that statement. Jesus is God. Jesus already had authority before he took on human flesh – but he set aside his right as All Authority in order to serve God in our place under God's law. He was authorized by God the Father at his Baptism to be the very Son of God to whom souls must listen for salvation.

Jesus even in the Gospel lesson from Mark speaks his authority with simple words, which are God's to command authority over an evil spirit. The spirit had no choice but to obey his words of authority. God's simple Words can cause a drastic change in us too. Jesus simply says, 'repent and believe' and we do trust that work of the Holy Spirit that God causes dead hearts of sin to be made into living hearts of faith. God's Word makes that change, causes faith to begin and be strengthened and so much more.

Jesus is the author of life and by his words he speaks divine authority, absolutely true to all. We must listen to his truth, his command, his teaching, his authority that he brings to us. The LORD says what he does and does what he says. The LORD says that he came to take away the sin that we are and the sin that we've done. The LORD says that his one and only Son is Jesus the Savior. The LORD says that when Jesus speaks believers listen to him and trust his authority as Prophet, Priest and King Divine.

God inspires Moses to put two warnings into one threat. If a church leader presumes to speak something into the Word of God they preach false in God's name – both types of prophets will die. I take those kind of words very seriously. And people say that we are too serious – God expects us to be serious with handling his Words of Authority. I still think it is amazing that God would have people handle his message instead of angels.

That's something we share with the angels, both of us were made to serve, honor and give glory to God. As a messenger stays true to the message given – then authority speaks and authority works faith. The religious leaders of Jesus' day would quote other leaders and Rabbi's who gave opinions about the Bible. Jesus quotes the Bible directly unlike other authorities who would skirt around the blunt words of God that speak truth and grace.

When others blame us for being too serious about God's Words – I say that I take God's forgiveness very seriously and wish they would too.

God inspires Moses & me to give all honor, credit, glory and praise to Jesus the Prophet. Jesus leads his people from this land of slavery in sin to his gift of an eternal inheritance of freedom from his Words of God. Jesus is unlike me because he is God in authority. Jesus is like me as the one who calls Moses & Me to point out his authority to forgive and to save.

The authority of Moses is interesting. He was a type of prophet and priest as he led God's people from slavery to freedom. And yet as interesting as Moses is his authority always had a limit. Moses wasn't perfect. Moses didn't live forever. Moses asked Pharaoh to let the people go instead of telling him to let the people go.

The authority of God's Word in the mouths of his people is underscored by the phrase, **'I myself will call him to account'**. People can be amazed at the words of Jesus and yet still not believe. People can read the Bible and still not believe. People can come to church going through the actions and still not believe.

Jesus is the Prophet that God raised up to whom every soul must listen to for eternal salvation. His words are light and life. God again showed the authority of Jesus at his Baptism when he said, **"this is my Son listen to him."** Jesus the Son of God is God himself – the Savior of the world. He has authority over heaven and earth. Hebrews 3 says that Moses spoke God's Words of authority within God's house – but Christ is a Son over God's house. He is the head of the church which is his body. Jesus calls all souls to belong to his house of his church which speaks the truth of His Words by God's own Authority.

We focus our attention on Moses who points to Jesus. We focus our attention on Jesus who points to his Words of authority. We focus our attention on the Holy Spirit as the master builder of the church of God, in whom we trust, to whom we listen and from whom everything comes. Servants of God have his authority to teach and preach. Jesus is the head of every church, every ministry, every house of which he is the builder as God who builds everything. Someone greater than Moses and all the prophets is Jesus Christ the one Savior of the world.

Jesus is more than Moses & Me.

Jesus is like me in that we repeat his words.

**Jesus is unlike me because he came to save me & Moses
& all who listen and trust Jesus a prophet of eternal peace.**