

**The 1689 Confession; Chapter 8 – “Of Christ the Mediator”, Message # 10 –
“Christ’s Prophetic Preaching”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on February 23rd, 2020.**

Paragraph 1 – It pleased God, (1) in His eternal purpose, (2) to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, (3) to be the Mediator between God and man; the Prophet, Priest, and King; head and Savior of the Church the heir of all things, and judge of the world, (4) unto whom He did from all eternity give a people to be His seed and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified. (5)

1. Isaiah 42: 1-7 2. 1 Peter 1: 20, 21 Isaiah 49: 1-6 3. 1st Timothy 2: 5 Acts 3: 22 Hebrews 5: 5 and 6

Psalm 2: 6 Luke 1: 33

Ephesians 1: 22 and 23 and Chapter 5, verse 23 Hebrews 1: 2 Acts 17: 31 5. Romans 8: 30 John 17: 6

Isaiah 53: 10 Psalm 22: 30

1st Timothy 2: 6 Isaiah 55: 4 and 5 1 Corinthians 1: 30

Paragraph 9 – This office of mediator between God and man is proper (1) only to Christ, who is the prophet, priest, and king of the church of God; and may not be either in whole, or any part thereof, transferred from him to any other.

1. 1st Timothy 2: 5

Paragraph 10 – This number and order of offices is necessary; for in respect of our (1) ignorance, we stand in need of his prophetic office; and in respect of our alienation from God, (2) and imperfection of the best of our services, we need his priestly office to reconcile us and present us acceptable unto God; and in respect to our averseness and utter inability to return to God, and for our rescue and security from our spiritual adversaries, we need his kingly office (3) to convince, subdue, draw, uphold, deliver, and preserve us to his heavenly kingdom.

1. John 1: 18 2. Colossians 1: 21 Galatians 5: 17 3. John 16: 8 Psalm 110:3 Luke 1: 74 and 75

In the Scriptures Christ is spoken of as the only Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King; the Head and Savior of the Church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world

Christ as the Only Mediator has the Offices of Prophet, Priest, and King.

I. He is the Prophet, raised up by God to be the only Mediator.

In the Children’s “Prove it” Catechism that we use with the children in the Bible Club we will often state this question, # 42 – “How is Christ a Prophet? Answer: He teaches us the will of God.

And Question # 45 – “Why do you need Christ as a Prophet?” “Because I am ignorant.”

II. Jesus was a Prophet who personally preached the Gospel of His Mission as Mediator, and what He came to give to sinners.

Christ could have had delegated the preaching ministry to his apostles instead of preaching the gospel Himself, but this He did not do, because it was necessary for Him to assume the office of a Preacher in order to fulfill His Prophetic Calling.

III. An Example of Christ's Preaching of the Gospel –

John 4: 3-42 – “He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Why do you think that it says that Jesus needed to go through Samaria? Well, the way to Galilee lay in going from Judea and through the country of Samaria, that is for sure. But it was more than that. Jesus knew that there was a certain woman that He was going to meet there at the well, just outside of town of Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. In fact, it was Jacob's well that Jesus determined to stop at for a drink, because He was wearied from His journey. And a woman from Samaria came to draw water and Jesus said to her – Give me a drink. He was there alone, for his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The woman of Samaria asked Him – How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? (John adds – For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans) And Jesus said to her – If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.

I would have you notice the way that Jesus initiated this conversation and did so by Himself asking her to give Him a drink. This would set the stage for the whole rest of their conversation and His teaching her the way of salvation. We too, out to use opportunities which come to us to speak to others of salvation by talking to them about the ordinary physical needs that we have, or other people have, to draw attention to spiritual things which are pictured by physical things. Water is one of the most necessary things for life to be sustained. Spiritual water is related to the life and sustenance so necessary to our entering into eternal life and our on-going spiritual life being sustained and nourished day by day, all the way through this life, and into the next.

Jesus spoke to this woman of salvation, as its being a gift God, and that it consists of drinking of this living water that He alone could give to her. She does not understand. She says – Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? It will often be true when we are speaking to people of spiritual things that they will not understand at first. They will think that we are talking about physical needs, and they will throw our own words back at us to see what we will say. She says – Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from himself, as well as his sons and his livestock? Sometimes people will think that we are trying to be superior to them, greater than them, when we use speech that tries to lead them further along in their knowledge of God and His great salvation.

Jesus immediately told her of Himself, and what He could do for her by giving her to drink of this living water. Verse 13 – Whoever drinks of this physical water will thirst again. But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. This was such good way to help this woman to understand spiritual realities. To be saved you have to drink of the water of life, the truths of the gospel accompanied by the Holy Spirit's working in your mind and heart to bring real understanding of what you need to do to be saved, and how you will never look anywhere else than Jesus to be spiritually satisfied. For in Him is life, and that more abundantly. You will never spiritually thirst for the knowledge that any other false prophet or teacher might give you. You will know the truth and the truth will set you free and you will be free indeed! The truth and grace that Jesus will give in the water of life will become in you a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. That is, the gift of life becomes a well or a fountain of life within you by the Holy Spirit's working and power. It is the source within our hearts, the New Nature, the good tree that brings forth good fruit which is watered continually by the Holy Spirit's presence and power in our heart and life.

Now, Jesus has this woman's attention. He has done such an artful job of describing the reality of knowing Him and having everlasting life, that she truly wants it. She says – Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw. She still does not understand spiritual things quite clearly, but she desires to have what Jesus can give to her in terms of literal physical water. Jesus takes the conversation on up to the next level. He says – Go call your husband and come here. She said to him – I have no husband. He being God made manifest in the flesh tells her – You have well said, 'I have no husband, for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.

Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. She knows that he has discernment and insight into her particular life which no man could have given to Jesus, since she had never met Jesus before this. So she turns the subject back again to the differences in the religion of the Jews and the Samaritans; what mountain that they worshiped on, either in Samaria or in Jerusalem. Jesus gives her further insight into the truth of what worship really will mean for the one believing in Him. Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

This was good evangelism in every sense. This woman is being led to seek further knowledge of Jesus. She says to Him in verse 25 – I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things. She has just answered her own question. It is Christ who was telling her all things concerning worship, her own sinfulness and need of Him the true Messiah to give her the words of eternal life. She saw that she was a sinner, she saw that she should drink the water, the truth of the gospel which He was giving to her, and so she believed. And then she left her waterpot, and went her way into the city and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ She herself now becomes an evangelist. This was Christ’s effectual ministry as a Prophet in personally preaching the gospel to this woman, and through her, also to the whole town of Sychar.