

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-12 "THIS IS THE PROPHET"

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JOHN 6:13-14 *So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.* ¹⁴ *When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"*

The question we are investigating is, **"WHO Is Jesus?"** In our series, **"THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY"** we are using the **GOSPEL OF JOHN** to help us in this quest. Just as John wrote to address the confusion at the end of the 1st Century, **we need his insight today to "hear" Jesus' words, and the testimony of those who were around Him.** John presents example after example of this fact:

JESUS IS THE MESSIAH... THE SON OF MAN... THE SON OF GOD.

In this Lesson we will consider the material presented in the familiar account of the **"Feeding of the 5,000."** All **"4"** of the **GOSPELS** record this event, but **MARK** and **LUKE** give us the most detail. **However,** it is **ONLY** in **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN** that Jesus is recognized by the crowd using a **Messianic** title: **"THE PROPHET."**

For John's purpose it was important to include this. People need to hear that **JESUS, THE CHRIST, IS GOD!**

Between JOHN 5 & JOHN 6 there are "44" separate Events and Teachings recorded in MATTHEW, MARK, and LUKE.

The Prophet:

To many of the people of the area around Galilee, Jesus was beginning to be recognized as **"THE ANOINTED" OF GOD... THE MESSIAH.** They didn't have full understanding of what that meant, but the miracles and signs that He had done showed He was truly **"sent from God."**

The Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees, and local Rabbis, however, did NOT see it that way. From the beginning of His ministry, they tried to undermine Him, and call into question all that He did, and said. It is no wonder then that there was confusion about, **"Who Jesus was."**

JOHN 6:14 *When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed THE PROPHET who is to come into the world!"*

The response of the crowd was to see in this "sign" an indication that **"The Messiah"** had come.

A FAMILIAR TITLE:

It is clear from its use in the Gospels that the title, **"THE PROPHET,"** as it was applied to Jesus, was a reference to **The Messiah** for whom they had hoped.

This **"hope"** found its root in the prophecy made by Moses.

DEUT 18:15 *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen...*

- It was Moses who rescued them from bondage to slavery in Egypt...
- It was Moses who led them victoriously through the Red Sea...
- It was Moses who provided them the Water, the Manna, and the Quail...

Although, as Jesus points out later, **it was God NOT Moses who did ALL of this...**

This is the idea of **"THE PROPHET"** they believed who would come... One who would bring them out-from-under Roman oppression to new freedom and prosperity, and would restore their Nation

This was not the only place where this the Title **"THE PROPHET"** was used in reference to Jesus.

JOHN 1:21-23 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you **THE PROPHET?**" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight **the way of the Lord,**' as the **PROPHET ISAIAH** said."

JOHN 7:40-43 When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is **THE PROPHET.**" ⁴¹ Others said, "This is **the Christ.**" But some said, "Is **the Christ** to come from Galilee?" ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that **the Christ** comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" ⁴³ So there was a division among the people over him.

MATT 21:9-11 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is **THE PROPHET JESUS,** from Nazareth of Galilee."

OTHER TITLES:

There are MANY Titles given to Jesus, prophetically in the OT, and directly in the NT.

However, our study will be restricted to "3" of those Titles which were ascribed to Him by the people as they responded to his teachings, or His works.

THE CHRIST:

MATT 16:13-15 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say **John the Baptist,** others say **Elijah,** and others **Jeremiah** or **one of the prophets.**" ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are **THE CHRIST,** the **Son of the Living God.**"

- Of course, this is the classic statement made by Peter in direct response to Jesus' question.
- There was much confusion, because of the resistance of the Jewish Leaders who were doing all they could to undermine Jesus' identity
- There were OT prophecies which referred to a "Prophet" returning before the Coming of the Messiah at the End of the Age (2nd)... but these did not apply to Jesus' 1st Coming
- Only through God's help could Peter make this proper proclamation

JOHN 11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are **THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD,** who is coming into the world."

MATT 11:2-4 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of THE CHRIST, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see...”

THE LAMB OF GOD:

JOHN 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, THE LAMB OF GOD, who takes away the sin of the world!”

JOHN 1:36 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, THE LAMB OF GOD, who takes away the sin of the world!”

1:40-41 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found THE MESSIAH” (which means CHRIST).

THE SON OF DAVID:

MATT 9:27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, SON OF DAVID.”

MATT 12:22-23 Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the SON OF DAVID?”

MATT 15:22 ²¹ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, SON OF DAVID; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

MATT 20:30 And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. ³⁰ And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, SON OF DAVID!”

JOHN’S INTENT:

IN JOHN 6:22-69. (Our next Lesson) John returns “Moses and The Bread” in his recording of the extensive discourse Jesus uses to engage the doubting crowd.

THE PROPHET who was coming into the World was clearly, **THE MESSIAH... THE SON OF MAN... JESUS.**