



Teaching, Preaching and Reaching for  
Transformation and Liberation

## “CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:

THE PASTOR'S PEN 

January 31, 2021

This week's reprint is from May 5 – May 26, 2019. Please

### WHAT DID JESUS HAVE IN MIND WHEN HE DIED TO ESTABLISH THE CHURCH?

What did Jesus have in mind when He died to establish the church? Was Jesus' intent that we come on Sundays and one or two days a week for Bible study and ministry meetings as the fulfilment of what He had in mind? Was Jesus' intent that we spend our time and resources on anniversaries and annual days – praising and honoring each other, while our communities continue in a downward spiral?

Historically, the church, especially the Black Church, had a prophetic witness and a prophetic voice. It is imperative that we respond to the questions, “What is *our/my* prophetic witness?” and “Where is *our/my* prophetic voice?” I believe that our lack of prophetic witness and absence of prophetic voice contributes to the downward spiral we see and experience in our communities.

At the core of prophetic witness and prophetic voice is the word “prophetic.” This word is grounded in the history of the prophets of the Old Testament. The word prophet comes from the Greek word *prophētēs*, which is made up of two Greek words, *pró* meaning “To tell beforehand, before, in front of” and *phēmi* meaning “to tell, to speak.” A prophet, therefore, is a foreteller of future events.

The role of the prophet was much different from the role of the priest. Simply put, the prophet stood before the people on behalf of God, while the priest stood before God on behalf of the people. The prophet was the voice of God sharing with the people “Thus says the LORD.” Additionally, while the priests were comforting the afflicted, the prophets were afflicting the comfortable. It was the prophet, after seeing what God saw, spoke what God said, and challenged the people to do what God desired. Accordingly, the prophets were not the most favored among the people. The prophets were despised, jailed, beaten, ostracized, threatened, accused of sedition, ignored, mistreated and murdered.

Because of the intimate relationship that the prophet had with God, and because the prophet foresaw what God revealed, the prophet, as the foreteller of future events, spoke on behalf of God. The prophet was God's mouthpiece, spokesperson, representative, ambassador, delegate, messenger, envoy, etc. Although the prophets were not favored among the people, they sustained a cherished relationship with God.

Moses was called by God to be a prophet, and is a significant example of what it meant to have an intimate relationship with God and speak on the behalf of God. In Deuteronomy 34:10, God said of Moses, “<sup>10</sup> *But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.*”

Following are examples of prophets who heard from God, then spoke for God: [Ezekiel] “<sup>7</sup> *You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.*” (Ezekiel 2:7). [Amos] “<sup>7</sup> *Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*<sup>8</sup> *A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?* (Amos 3:7, 8). [Balaam] “<sup>8</sup> *And he said to them, “Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me...”* (Numbers 22:8). [Deborah] “<sup>6</sup> *She sent and summoned Barak son of*

Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali...' " (Judges 4:6).

While there were many who rejected and negated the voice of the prophet as the prophet pronounced a prophetic word of judgment to those who were rebellious to God's purposes and plans, there were many who affirmed and appreciated the voice of the prophet and received the words of the prophet with joy as the prophet presented a prophetic word of hope to those who had sunken into the deep valley of hopelessness and despair, and needed to know that God was with them and would deliver them.

As you are prayerfully and meditatively considering your responses to the questions, "What is *our/my* prophetic witness?" and "Where is *our/my* prophetic voice?" I ask that you also prayerfully and meditatively consider your honest responses to the following questions as you open yourself in availability to and for God.

**1. Who am I?**

- ✓ Begin with "I am"
- ✓ Not your role (father, mother, etc.). Not your occupation (teacher, plumber, etc.). Not your gifts (singer, writer, painter, etc.). For example, Jesus said "I am the Son of God"

**2. Why am I here?**

- ✓ God is not coincidental nor accidental. Everything that God created was for a purpose
- ✓ God created me on purpose. God created me with a purpose

**3. Why did God create me the way that God created me?**

- ✓ God is not coincidental nor accidental. Everything that God created was for a specific purpose
- ✓ God created me on purpose. God created me with a purpose. God created me for a specific purpose

**4. How is God re-creating me (that is, remolding and reshaping me to conform more and more to my purpose)?**

- ✓ Read Jeremiah 18:1-6
- ✓ As God is remolding and reshaping me, I know that I am in God's hands

**5. What am I doing now to prepare myself to fulfill my purpose?**

**6. Have I started doing what I am supposed to do to fulfill my purpose?**

**7. If I could spend the rest of my life doing or talking about one thing, what would it be?**

**8. My life experiences has rendered me an expert at something. At what am I an expert?**

**9. What do I really enjoy**

**10. What do I dislike?**

**11. What makes me feel alive?**

**12. What is my legacy? / What will I be known for after I die?**

# WORK FOR THE WEEK

## JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

<sup>8</sup> Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." **Isaiah 6:8**

## JANUARY MEDITATION QUOTE

"One spoke to me one day and said, 'Now Dr. King, don't you think you're going to have to agree more with the Administration's policy. I understand that your position on Vietnam has hurt the budget of your organization. And many people who respected you in civil rights have lost that respect and don't you think that you're going to have to agree more with the Administration's policy to regain this.' And I had to answer by looking that person into the eye, and say 'I'm sorry sir but you don't know me. I'm not a consensus leader.' I do not determine what is right and wrong by looking at the budget of my organization or by taking a Gallup poll of the majority opinion. Ultimately a genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

If I am only your friend because I say what you want, am I really your friend? \_\_\_\_\_

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Warning: Telling the truth creates enemies \_\_\_\_\_

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## FOR THE YOUTH

What is the test that someone is genuinely our friend? Disagree with them \_\_\_\_\_

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Telling the truth may create enemies \_\_\_\_\_

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