

The Communication of God

Mark Rutland July 19, 2015

Issue of communication

- think you've transmitted perfect message; what was received was not what was transmitted
- response was not what you thought you would get
- communication is even more of an issue across languages; cultural background

What is the communication problem of God?

- God the transmitter is perfect
- the message is perfect
- the message is received through the shattered filter of fallen humanity

Purpose of the coming of Jesus

- in the past God tried to communicate His words through the prophets
 - misunderstood, rejected, persecuted
- in the last days, the Word became flesh; and dwelt among us
- the miracle of incarnation
 - very God and very man
 - altogether both
 - God in flesh
- the cross was our salvation
 - He had to die a blood death
 - He had to be a human human to bleed
 - He had to be fully divine to redeem the sins of others
- Jesus birth
 - conception was supernatural
 - birth was humanly natural
 - divinity and humanity fully merged
- Jesus' growth
 - He learned to think and grow to talk to humans
 - He learned to think and grow to talk to God
 - native language is "God"
- mankind
 - lost the ability to speak God language in the fall in the garden
 - lost the ability to communicate with other humans at the tower of Babel

Communication of God to us through Jesus

- every message of God to us is cross cultural; cross linguist
- God is trying to get a message to us who no longer understand God language
- as Jesus grows, He is thinking in "God," and speaking in "human"
 - humans thinking in human reality
 - Jesus thinking in cosmic reality
- at the raising of Lazarus from the dead
 - the crowd witnessed the supernatural side of Jesus
 - they also saw the human side of Jesus
 - people still wondered who He was and what He was talking about

Communication of Jesus with His disciples

- “Who do men say that I am?”
 - Elijah, John the Baptist, a prophet
- “Who do you say that I am?”
 - Peter says, “You are Christ, the Messiah, Son of the Living God”
 - Jesus says you are right, you heard God

Declarations of Jesus

- in the temple before His crucifixion
 - “This is my Father’s house” — declaration of authority
- after his resurrection
 - Jesus walks through the wall
 - then Thomas touches the nail scars on His hands
 - the supernatural and natural merge into perfect unity
 - two sides of the bifold universe

Struggle with vocabulary of God

- after Jesus’ resurrection; he taught for 40 days
- topic was the Kingdom of God
- struggle with the vocabulary of God being understood on human terms
 - power vs. power
 - king vs. king
 - kingdom vs. kingdom
- what does it mean to be citizens of the kingdom and walk in power
 - has haunted church for 2000 years
 - want our power and sword

Power of God vs. our power

- we want to add our power to His power
- God is able to flow through an instrument of unselfconsciousness to a point of human need

Holy Spirit, flow through me as purely as possible, into my brokenness and absolute powerlessness, I desire to receive Your power.

Discussion Questions

The Sermon Discussion Questions are being provided to the Life Groups by Jimmy Harris, Life Group Pastor. If you are not in a Life Group and would like to receive copies of the Sermon Discussion Questions, please contact Pastor Jimmy: jimmy@gracechapel.net.

Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request.
We pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.
Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, July 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.