

LIVING IT OUT

SESSION 9

TRUTH TELLER, CHANGE SEEKER, LIFE BRINGER

Truth Teller, Change Seeker, Life Bringer

Galilean truth teller
Propelled by raw, unswerving boldness -
The way of the prophet.
Articulated world reality,
With a “once upon a time” approach.
Jesus held a mirror before the people,
Reflected crises of individual and corporate soul,
Turned their lives inside out and upside down.
Left this question hovering overhead,
Is God the center of your life
Or simply the center of your religion?

In parable and paradox
Rabbi placed pairs on the scales of justice:
Money and God
Religious practices and God
The Sabbath and God
Culture and God
Family and God
Family and work
Asking, challenging “how is it with your soul?”

He called each person Godward.
“Turn toward the Deliverer –
That your vision be refocused
And your lives exude meaning.
With each option, in every opportunity,
Choose, revere, offer Life.”

A prophet is, first of all, a keen observer of human nature and cultural/societal choices. Jesus was such an observer, able to reflect the disconnections of his day in ways his audiences understood and in ways that continue to teach at multiple levels.

Sometimes we consider the Creator on the Sabbath only and do not allow spiritual teachings and relationships to impact the whole of our lives. Prophets call people to live with integrity, integrating their faith beliefs with their practices each day.

For Your Spiritual Practices:

If a prophet such as Jesus were to look at your bank account, what story would he or she tell in response? What would your life's mirror reflect? In what way might you be called back toward God?

Ask the same three questions of the following:

Television/movies (content and time spent)?

Books/Magazines (content)?

Time/money spent on leisure?

Care of/advocacy for the environment?

Prayer

Spirit of Life, so often we desire to live an authentic life, but fall short. We come to you now and ask you to help us. Open us to see the ways that our beliefs and practices are incongruent. Place the needs of the world on our hearts. May the mark of our lives be generosity. We pray in the name of Christ whose life was authentic and whose generosity changed the world. Amen.

– Cynthia Langston Kirk

