

Theme: Prophet and Savior

Text: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, as well as those watching online, the text for our meditation this morning is the Old Testament lesson of Deuteronomy chapter eighteen (18), verses fifteen (15) through twenty (20).

Children, has your dad ever been really super mad at you to the point that you were afraid? Maybe you broke his favorite tool and he turned really red? Maybe you were playing baseball or football in the house and broke a window or a vase and you saw veins popping out of his head? In our Old Testament lesson, we see that the Israelites were really afraid of God. They saw fire, smoke, and an earthquake at Mount Sinai and they said, "Moses, you go speak for us and we will listen. Do not let God speak to us or we might die." They wanted Moses to stand between them and God and tell them what God said to do. God says that this is a good thing. He even promises that One like Moses will come later. Who is that? Listen to the rest of the sermon and tell me at the end of service.

The people of Israel needed a mediator, someone to stand between them and God. This is one of the roles of the Prophets throughout all of the Bible, speak the words of God to a fearful people, both words of condemnation as well as words of hope and mercy. The Israelites were afraid of seeing God. They saw at Sinai the presence of God in the fire, smoke, and great earthquake and they were afraid. Rightly so! Indeed, we as well should be afraid of seeing God because God is holy. He hates sin. And what are we? We just confessed it a few moments ago. We are sinners which means we sin. We are not perfect. We lie, we cheat, we steal. We disrespect those in authority over us. We put other things in the place of God. We do not do good things as we should and even sometimes enjoy doing bad things that we should not do. We know better or at least we should. We have written down for our instruction the very word of God, Moses, the Law, Prophets, and Psalms. We know God's will and desire and yet we still are not perfect. We

cannot be saved following the Law as the Law shows our sins time and time again and how much we have failed.

Thus why we need the promise given to the Israelites today. The promise of the Prophets after Moses, culminating in the One greater than all. Like much of Old Testament prophecy, this can have many layers of fulfillment. It can be seen in Joshua, Moses' successor. Joshua was great and led the people into the promised land. Yet, he was not "one like Moses." Even all of the Prophets, were mere types of the Greater Prophet to come. The promise that from among them will come One who is like Moses, indeed of whom Moses is a type. "Like Jesus Moses' life was spared in infancy, he renounced a royal court to share in the conditions of life of his brethren, and he became a captain of salvation to Israel. He was faithful, full of compassion and love, a powerful intercessor for his people, speaking with God face to face and reflecting the divine glory. Like Christ, he was a mighty prophet in word and deed, a revealer of God's will and purpose, a mediator of the covenant, and a leader of the people." One like Moses, but Jesus is greater by. He is both a Prophet and a Savior, as well as much more, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus is one like Moses but greater. He left the very heights of heaven, all for you. He took on our mortal frame for mortals sake, that He may share in all of our conditions of life. Whereas Moses relayed the message from God. Jesus is the very Word of God made flesh. As the Father spoke at His Transfiguration, "Listen to Him." Moses gave the ten commandments as the great Lawgiver, Jesus expounded and expanded the Law of Moses - "You've heard it said, do not commit adultery, but I say... lust is adultery in your heart! Moses taught you, 'do not murder', but I say that hatred of another is like murder in your heart! Moses let you get a divorce, but that was only because of your hardened hearts. From the beginning, God has joined men and women together in marriage. And what God has joined together, let man not separate!" Jesus reveals to us the will of God and perfectly fulfills the Law as He lives a perfect life in our place. Like Moses, Jesus stands in the breach as a deliverer, yet greater than, Moses. Where Moses stood between a sinful Israel and God, Jesus stands between God and the whole of sinful humanity. Bearing their sins, and ours, Jesus goes to the cross. There He suffers, bleeds, and dies. Rising again on the third day, He gives to us the forgiveness of our sins and life

forever. Moses delivered the People from slavery in Egypt, Jesus delivers us from sin, from death, and from the power of the devil. Jesus perfectly sates the wrath of God for us by becoming sin for us. Even now, Jesus stands in the breach, interceding for us at the right hand of the Father that when we sin, Jesus says, "Father forgive them. I died for them and all of their sin." Jesus does all of this, that we can, like Moses, speak to God face to face. We can approach boldly the throne of Grace in prayer asking for whatever we need. Because of Jesus, on the Last Day when He comes again, we will see God face to face in perfect bliss forever.

Now may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.