

The One: Week 2

Welcome back to "The One" Christmas series. Where we all united around Da One, the ONLY One, Jesus Christ as our God, the one so worth putting at the center of our lives.

Last week, Pastor Mike kicked off our series with an outstanding message about Da One, Jesus and that he was Da One from the beginning of time. If you missed it, catch it online. So if we choose to believe that Jesus is the Center of all creation, our response should be for us to place Jesus at the center of our lives, in our values "what's important", the way we relate to one another, and make decisions, all centered around Jesus.

Today, I'll be looking at what the prophets who wrote before Jesus was born had to say about Da One that would come. These prophets, talkas for God, are the ones that God spoke through in the O.T years before, Da One would appear. They had much to say about Jesus' birth and ministry. There are other prophecies that talk about his death and resurrection and his role in the church too, but we'll focus on his birth and ministry prophecies today. And most importantly, we'll see how Jesus is Da One, fo real kine, still yet today even after 2000 years.

The key to being fo real is the test of time. And has Jesus stood the test of time. Last week Pastor Mike looked at Da Ones in movies. If PMike is the movie pastor, then, I'm the sports pastor.

100 years from now, 1000 years from now, we can look back and see if these sport greats stand the test of time as the Da Great Ones of each of their respective sport. And most of these greats are still alive today. Do you think when history looks back 700 years, these sports greats will stand the test of time.

Da Greatest Ones in Sport's History

Da One: NFL Football Who would you say? (Tom Brady: QB for the now Tampa Bay Buck, 10 times superbowl appearance, 7 superbowl rings (no one is even close) and he's still playing today at 44, 22 season, when the average player age is 26

Da One: NBA Basketball Is it (Michael Jordan: six championships rings, three of them after his initial retirement) But did you know he pales in comparison to Da One, Bill Russell, of the Boston Celtics who has 11 championship rings, or how about Kareem Abdull-Jabbar (19 all star selections/scoring leader),

Da One: MLB Baseball: Is it, Shohei Ohtani (just great one year of amazing greatness) what about Hank Aaron (baseball - who died this year, 21 years as an all star, hit the most homeruns, 755 without the help of steroids), averaged over 300 in his Batting average over his career.

Da One: Soccer: (This is the world's most popular sport, can't be America centric) Is it Lionel Messi, how about Pele, or Diego Maradona?



THE ONE

These athletes are just in our generation and there is even differing opinions on who's Da One in their sport. But after 2000 years, generations after generations, Jesus is still clearly Da One and deserves our worship, our highest praise, and the one who we should place in charge of our lives.

Some bible scholars believe there are more than 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. These prophecies are specific enough that the mathematical probability of Jesus fulfilling even a handful of them, let alone all of them, is improbable—if not impossible.

I won't go over all those today, but just to look at what da talkas fo God wrote predicted about his birth in great detail. It's undeniable. Jesus is prophesized as,

- From Abraham's bloodline and David's bloodline, check
- Born from a Virgin to a son, check
- Born in an insignificant place, Bethlehem, check
- The Messiah will end up in Egypt, check

Who were some of da talkas: Isaiah, Micah, Hosea and they spoke out for God, different people in different places and times, as the video today shows, it wasn't 7 years, not 70 years, but 700 years before his coming. So it's easy to see why the people of Israel weren't all prepared for his coming. And all this was just about Jesus birth. Again, there are other prophecies that talk about how he died and about his resurrection.

But for me, what's even more convincing is from what was prophesized about his ministry. Do those things that we told of Jesus 700 years before his birth still hold to be true till today? Does Jesus make an impact in people's lives today. To me, that's the real proof that Jesus is the One by seeing if he is making a real difference in people's lives today! Does he set the captives free, heal the broken hearted. If so, Jesus is so worthy of our full devotion!

The question for all of us is this: Are the prophecies of Jesus ministry truly happening today? In other words, what was said about how Jesus transforms people's lives still can be seen and experienced today? Is he still healing the broken hearted, comforting those crushed in spirit, delivering people from their hurts, habits, and hang ups, giving people peace and hope in the midst of hard times they face even today?

That's the question I hope we can answer that Jesus is alive, active, and ever present and powerful today! And if so, that should bring us to our knees to worship him and place him at the center of our lives. You with me?

1. REFLECTION and OG DISCUSSION Q: Is the Jesus you first encountered even more real to you today? How so? What kind of proof can you share?

Right after Jesus' resurrection in Luke's gospel, Jesus appears to his disciples and in their shocked state, he tells them, look at my hands and feet (showing them his scars) and he even said, "Eh, try touch me, cuz I fo real stay here. I not one ghost. Then he tells them this. Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44 NLT).

What Jesus was saying is everything written about him in the entire OT is fulfilled in him. And when he said this, then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. I pray today, your minds are open to the scripture just like the disciples.

Now I'd like you to hear from a prophesy that Jesus read about himself in the beginning of his ministry days when he visited a synagogue in his hometown. This is the account.

¹⁶ Jesus came to Nazareth where He had grown up. As He had done before, He went into the Jewish place of worship on the Day of Rest. Then He stood up to read. ¹⁷ Someone handed Him the book of the early preacher Isaiah. He opened it and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me. He has put His hand on Me to preach the Good News to poor people. He has sent Me to heal those with a sad heart. He has sent Me to tell those who are being held that they can go free. He has sent Me to make the blind to see and to free those who are held because of trouble. ¹⁹ He sent Me to tell of the time when men can receive favor with the Lord."

²⁰ Jesus closed the book. Then He gave it back to the leader and sat down. All those in the Jewish place of worship kept their eyes on Him. ²¹ Then He began to say to them, "The Holy Writings you have just heard have been completed today" (Luke 4:16 - 21 NLT).

Just think, many in the synagogue probably heard that passage before of Isaiah, but to hear that passage spoken by the one it is referring to, Jesus himself, that I'm sure blew their minds.

2. REFLECTION and OG DISCUSSION Q: When you read the bible, knowing that it's a document written hundreds of years ago and that it's truths are still relevant and applicable today, what is your appreciation value for it on a scale of 1 - 10? Please explain.
Read 2 Timothy 3:16 - 17

Remember that Jesus quotes this passage from Isaiah about himself, "He sen me fo tell da prisona guys Fo dem come free now. An tell da peopo dat no can see, Fo dem see now,

That was Jesus reading something written about himself 700 years before. And today, we are reading this passage 2000 years after Jesus. And does Jesus still free people up today, does he still heal the sad hearts today, does he open up the eyes of the spiritually blind today? Has his WORK STOOD THE TEST OF TIME?



THE ONE

Closing:

Wow, the true test of Jesus being the One is if he is living and active in the lives of people today! Is he fo da real kine guy, Da One, the only one that can set the captives free, mend the broken hearts, and open blind eyes. And that's what Lawrence and Nadene's life story is about, the prophesized Jesus who would free up the prisoners, heal and comfort the broken hearted, is fulfilled in their story. And they get to be living examples of having Jesus in the center of their lives. And this Jesus, Da One, can do that, like he has powerfully has done in the Antolin's lives, in yours too. You just have to surrender your life, as Nadene said, decided to place him at the center of your life. And I quote Nadene, "With great suffering comes great spiritual growth and it took great suffering before they could come to their knees. Maybe you're had your share of suffering and now you're ready to trust in Jesus, decide to follow him and not in your own ways.

I want to give you all an opportunity to place your trust in DA One, Jesus Christ, who will never let you down, will never leave you, may allow you to suffer, but will always love you and you'll have the assurance that he's always got you!

I'll end with this. Read Romans 1:1-5 In DGASB version.

Yes this was written 50 plus years after Jesus' life, but let me read it to you as if I'm Paul reading it to you today!

¹Dis letta from me, Paul. I one worka guy fo Jesus Christ, da Spesho Guy God Wen Sen. God wen tell me fo come be his guy, cuz he like sen me all ova da place fo talk fo him. God wen make me one spesho talka fo tell peopo da Good Kine Stuff From Him.

²Befo time, God wen make his talka guys write his Good An Spesho Book fo him. Dat time, God wen promise um dat bumbye he goin tell peopo da Good Kine Stuff ³bout his Boy. His Boy blood line come from King David. ⁴But how his spirit stay, an da way he stay good an spesho fo God, dass wat show dat he God Boy. We know dat cuz God use plenny powa fo make um come back alive afta he wen mahke. You know, I stay talk bout Jesus Christ. He da Spesho Guy God Wen Sen. He stay Da One In Charge a all us guys.

⁵Dass how Jesus stay, an dass why God like do good tings fo us guys. Cuz a dat he stay sen us guys all ova da place, cuz he like all da peopos from diffren places fo trus him an live da way he tell um fo live. An me, I like do dat fo dem know who Christ (Rome 1:1 - 5 DGASB).

3. REFLECTION and OG DISCUSSION Q: How is your life different because you have encountered Jesus? Have you suffered greatly? Have you experienced being desperate? If so, discuss how Jesus met you in your mess?