

The Oscars might be a month away, but the nominations came out this week. Are you a fan, someone who tracks the nominations closely, even trying to predict who'll win? I'll admit I've seen exactly zero of the best picture nominees. In the best actor and actress categories I only recognize a couple of the names. Perhaps your favorites were nominated, maybe they weren't. Perhaps you're wondering how the Academy found a better actor or actress than your favorite. That is unless Brad Pitt or Meryl Streep are your favorites.

Among Old Testament figures his name is always near the top of nominees. Moses held such honor among Old Testament people that he was the benchmark. To be sure of your salvation you needed to measure up to the Law of Moses. If you didn't measure up it meant more work on your part to be saved. That sort of measuring stick is still used today by many. Alright people don't necessarily refer to the Law of Moses, but a great number of people still think they can do something, obey some law, or do a certain number of good works in order to be saved. They are essentially aligning themselves with Moses.

But are they? Moses received from God the Law summarized in what we call the 10 commandments. He gave it to the people and kept them living according to it. But Moses realized it wasn't helping anyone be saved. He longed for something better, someone greater. In the first lesson, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Moses wrote about someone greater. Now many centuries later we can say...

**The Prophet greater than Moses is here
With the words of God
With the works of God**

If you made it to Deuteronomy having started in Genesis reading all the way through the first four books you might quickly get frustrated with this one. Deuteronomy got its name because someone thought it was a retelling of the Law. That's not entirely incorrect. Moses does recap the laws God gave to his people, highlighting certain ones and explaining others. But the tone isn't as harsh and cold. Moses is near the end of his life. These are some of the last words he'll share with the people of Israel. So in a caring loving sermon he recaps many things God had done for them in the past as well as expectations about the future under God. They didn't need witchcraft, sorcery, or divination to be confident of this future. They didn't need a fortune teller or magician. God had a better way.

God planned on providing them with a prophet. He would come from God and have the words of God. **"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him."** This future prophet would be like Moses. Moses was the chosen spokesperson for the Israelites. He brought their prayers and requests before the Lord. He would settle disputes. He led the nation of Israel for 40 years. He also was the chosen spokesperson for God. When God needed to get information to the Israelites he did it through Moses. God gave Moses his word and Moses gave that word to the people.

Future prophets were measured against Moses. They came with messages from God. Some were leaders, but largely not. They prayed for the people, but rarely settled disputes. The long line of prophets after Moses couldn't really measure up to Moses. Not until Jesus was born and started his ministry could someone stand up in comparison to Moses. Jesus came as God's chosen spokesperson for humanity with their prayers and requests. He's no earthly leader, but really he's been leading the world since it was created. He's also the chosen spokesperson for God. **"I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him."** He brings directly from God the Word of God the world needs to hear.

Listen to the reaction of those who heard Jesus speak directly. **"Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law."** It was clear the Prophet greater than Moses had arrived. He spoke with authority because he was the Word of God. Everything God wishes to convey to human beings he did so through Jesus. Jesus speaks the words of life with authority as God himself.

It's our nature to always want something better. We find a good restaurant then we search for something better. We buy a nice car and we stare at the ones next to us at a stoplight thinking those might be better. We receive a Savior from God announced in the Scriptures and we think something else must be better. We raise questions about Jesus' authority. Sure he spoke with authority then, but does he speak to me directly today? Does Jesus have authority over my life when he's not around and the things that the Bible records seem so out of date?

Jesus is the Prophet greater than Moses. If you want a guarantee of salvation that's not based on your imperfect attempts at good works, then Jesus is who you want to listen to. He still has authority in your life today because his message of sins forgiven doesn't lose authority. Jesus reveals himself as the promised Christ, the Prophet God planned on raising up. He has a message through the Word to share with you; the Law of Moses cannot save. But the Word of Christ has saved you.

Everyone wants to be successful at their jobs. Moses too wanted success. And actions speak louder than words. The Bible says, **“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”** It was Moses’ role in history to receive the Law from God and he did it well. His work was to hold the Israelites accountable to the Law. Moses was the poster child for the Law so much that people who followed after him for generations thought the Law could save you. Moses never believed this. In his final sermon he turns people from the Law to the Gospel.

God through Moses reminded the people of what happened at Mount Horeb when they received the 10 commandments from God. **“For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God or see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”** The people were calling for a mediator. God gave them Moses. But what the people didn’t realize was that God heard them and planned to send a greater mediator. God would send a mediator whose works would be far greater than Moses.

Jesus clearly reveals himself as the divine promised greater Prophet. His actions and work spoke just as loud as his words. Jesus did works that brought comfort and cheer to sin filled hearts. Listen to what Jesus did in the gospel. **Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out...Be quiet said Jesus sternly. Come out of him! The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.”** The work of Jesus was to free people from the influence of evil spirits. His work was to bring people back into a right relationship with God. He served as the mediator greater than Moses to bring grace and truth to the world.

Why should we follow Jesus? We are the recipients of the grace and truth that he brought. He didn’t win a victory over Satan or the evil spirits for himself. It was for you. We are saved through his works of mediation before God. We couldn’t live a perfect life but Jesus did. We couldn’t give our life as a payment for sins but Jesus did. We need to be raised from the dead and Jesus rose already in glory. Jesus is the greater Prophet and a mediator like none other because on the cross he paid the debt of sins we owed. His actions and works demonstrate that he truly is the Prophet greater than Moses.

In a couple of weeks many of your favorite actors and actresses will gather to hear if they’re the best. For an entire year they’ll be considered the best of the best. But eventually we’ll go looking for an even greater one to come along. Not so with Jesus. Moses was great, his words and works were great because he did what God wanted him to do. But something greater was needed. Jesus is the Prophet greater than Moses. His Words have the authority of God because he is God. His works are done so he can serve as mediator between us and God. Because of that, both his words and works, we look to him as the greater Prophet and Savior.