

The Duties of The Priest

Part 5

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1Peter 2:9)

The life of the family had great impact on the church and on the life of the people around them. The outcome of each family, how they live and how they raise up their children determine greatly how the church will grow and whether will be able to give light for others to know Christ and be found of him.

Abraham responded to God’s call and he and his wife left their place and followed God and reached where God had called them to live. But they did not have children. So they resort to the option of having Hager as a second wife to Abraham to have children and make family out of her. But that was adultery, and once Hager became pregnant problem started in the family, ***“⁴He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ⁵Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me.” (Genesis 16:4-5)*** And not only troubles started in the family but after the delivery of Ishmael, the problem extended further and until this day, the descendant of Ishmael are persecuting the descendant of Isaac. This is what the angel of the Lord spoke to Hager about Ishmael while she was pregnant of him, ***“¹¹The angel of the LORD also said to her: “You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. ¹²He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.” (Genesis 16:11-12)***

We know also that Abraham finally obeyed God when the Lord commanded him to send Hager away with her son Ishmael. But the point here is this: Abraham if he was aware of the bad effect of this relationship with Hager and what will bring bad effect on his family until this day on his descendant, then sure he would not do it. Now here there is a clear point and teaching to you dear reader. Anything you do wrong against God’s word and you do your own it had a detrimental effects on you and on the life of your children and on the growth and the impact of the church in spreading the gospel.

Abraham finally fulfilled what God had spoke about him, ***“¹⁸Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” (Genesis 18:18-19)*** Abraham raised his son Isaac in the fear of the Lord, and both father and son were willing to abide with God’s commands when willingly both of them obeyed God when He requested Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering, ***“⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.” (Genesis 22:9-10)*** Up to this point both were willing to abide with God’s command and that gives clear picture of God to the people around them.

The next family after Abraham family was the life of Isaac family. Isaac married Rebekah after the advice of Abraham who recommended that Isaac should not go back to the country of Abraham. Abraham put this condition to his servant, that the woman should be willing to leave her father house and be where God had placed Isaac, ***“⁶“Make sure that you do not take my son back there,” Abraham said. ⁷“The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father’s household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give this land’—he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. ⁸If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.” (Genesis 24:6-8)*** Truly God confirmed his word to Abraham and as he and his son Isaac obeyed, the Lord make a way and the suitable wife, Rebekah, was found and the servant brought her to Isaac. ***“⁶⁷Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.” (Genesis 24:67)***

Isaac and Rebekah was the leading family in the life of the church after Abraham, and they got twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Esau was the eldest but he married two Hittite women. Surely his parents Isaac and Rebekah taught him not to do that because they were grieved of what he did, ***“³⁴When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and also Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite. ³⁵They were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.” (Genesis 26:34-35)*** We can read about that also the following, ***“⁴⁶Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I’m disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living.” (Genesis 27:46)*** Marrying non believer or a wife of not God’s choice is against God’s will, because the next generation will be harmed. How the children will be raised up? Sure in wrong direction and away from God’s ways or rules. Esau grieved God as well when he sold his birth right for Jacob just for a meal because he was hungry. And God allowed that to happen because Esau did not honour God and followed His commands. Esau did not repent, and his sin and disobedience had passed to his descendants, therefore neither he nor his descendants followed God. Therefore, ***“¹⁵See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. ¹⁶See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. ¹⁷Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.” (Hebrews 12:15-17)***

My Dear and Beloved: The parents as the foundation for the family and the instrument who carry the truth and the word of God to the next generation, entail that marriages among Christians should not be done lightly but to be done according to God’s will and God’s choice. The church called to ordain marriages like Isaac and Rebekah and is not called to compromise and ordained marriages according to people that lead to havoc as we had read in Esau’s life.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal. Lord I commit myself to abide with the truth of your word and to stand firm and apply them on myself and on the life of my children and disciples. Lord give me the strength and the patient to achieve that, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.