

The Duties of The Priest

Part 6

“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)

From Isaac and Rebekah Jacob came out and was the righteous seed that God would count on to bring forth His word and the truth to the next generation. Jacob listened to his parents advised not to marry a Canaanite woman but to have a wife as his father Isaac got, from the family of his mother, ¹ *“So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him and commanded him: “Do not marry a Canaanite woman. ² Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother’s father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother. ³ May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. ⁴ May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, the land God gave to Abraham.” ⁵ Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way, and he went to Paddan Aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, who was the mother of Jacob and Esau.” (Genesis 28:1-5)* Jacob responded to the advice of his father and went to Haran, and while he was in the way, the Lord appeared to Him as we can read here: ¹⁰ *“Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” (Genesis 28:10-15)* and Jacob committed His ways to the Lord after he woke up from his dream and He promised the Lord the following, ¹⁶ *“When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.” ¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz. ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s house, then the LORD will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.” (Genesis 28:16-22)* Jacob committed to the LORD the following things: The Lordship of God over his life. He committed himself to the house of God (Bethel) and that in the New Testament parallel to the commitment to the church, and to bring his tithes to the Lord. That was the covenant that Jacob did with God.

God indeed blessed Jacob’s journey, and He gave him the suitable wife Leah, but he was not happy with God’s choice so he took Rachel her sister as wife in addition to Leah, and he stayed with his uncle for twenty years, then he returned home as God instructed him. In his journey back home God protected him from the hands of his uncle Laban and when he arrived to his place God protected him from his brother Esau who wanted to revenge of him.

But after he reached safely his place, ***“18 After Jacob came from Paddan Aram, he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan and camped within sight of the city. 19 For a hundred***

pieces of silver, he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent. 20 There he set up an altar and called it El Elohe Israel.” (Genesis 33:18-20) Jacob set up his altar in Shechem and forgot what he promised God that if the Lord would bless him he will set his altar at Bethel.

That wavering of commitment brought troubles in the life of Jacob. In *Genesis 34* (Read the whole chapter in your bible) we can read clearly the consequences of wavering in the commitment to God. Dinah Jacob’s daughter she went out with the women of the land and finally she was raped, and her two brothers Simeon and Levi revenged from the whole city of Shechem because they treated their sister as harlot. Jacob was so scared to what had happened because of the possible attack from the surrounding nations, ³⁰ *“Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me a stench to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed.” (Genesis 34:30-31)* That was the church, the whole family of Jacob, and the church was in danger and the reason is Jacob who placed his family and exposed them to the worldly things; he did not disciplined them according to God’s word and His ways.

It is so dangerous when you do not fulfilled your commitment to God. Many families are not careful to protect their children by not preventing them from going and be part of the world and the friends around them. Worldly friends will introduce wrong practices and functions that are contradict to the Christian discipline. When the family is infected the church will also be infected and will be in great danger, and the process of discipleship will be spoiled.

What is the solution for that then, and how to come out from all that? ***“Then God said to Jacob, “Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.” (Genesis 35:1)*** God reminded Jacob of his commitment and covenant with God, and how now is broken and needed to be restored. Jacob truly repented of what he did and recognize how the family will be harmed as well as the church when he neglected God’s word and His command, ² *“So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. ³ Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.” ⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. ⁵ Then they set out, and the terror of God fell upon the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.” (Genesis 35:2-5)* The children of Jacob had foreign gods and rings in their ears notify that they were slaves to other foreign gods. The same today to the Christians who confess Christ but in bondage of watching movies, wasting time on TV and facebook. going parties, dressed with dress that exposed the parts of their bodies, making boyfriend and girlfriend in addition to the other form of immoralities, having bad friends, learning from them bad thing, drinking and smoking, spending much money, telling lies and putting themselves in bondages.

My Dear and Beloved: You may ask, *‘What is the solution for that then, and how to come out from all that?’* As Jacob did, you do the same; renew your covenant and commitment with God and remove from yourselves and from your family and your children the idols that you are worshipping, the worldly things, and repent and renounce all that and commit yourself fully to serve God. Be aware your family is the light for others to know God and walk in His ways, therefore commit yourself to God as you agree to pray.

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 renounce all the following sins and worldliness _____, and I commit myself to clean my family and children and lead them according to your word and ways. Uphold me Lord and strengthen me with your grace to do that, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*