

The Duties of The Priest

Part 7

“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 Christian family is a light for the community around them to know God and follow His ways. Our families as small congregations will function to serve God by doing our duties carefully in the family and in this way we are preaching God’s word to the community around us by the good deed that we live with.

Life of the family and how they function as parents and children and their responding to one another is of more important for the church to focus on, than for the church to be busy with practicing new songs, or arranging celebrations and doing many functions. If church with many programs and focus on talents performance, but the life of the family is forgotten and neglected then such church is not doing well. As a church God call us to care for the families and put clean and clear foundation to buildup in each and every family the following:

- 1- The rule for marriage based on God’s word and God’s choice.
- 2- The parents they are the royal priests who are called to raise up a holy generation to be the future royal priests who will bring the truth to the next generation.

Jacob family after he came back from Haran was the church at that time because they were the followers of God. But things had happened brought bad testimonies not only to the family but to God and to His church:

- 1- ***Dinah raped (Read Genesis 34).***
- 2- ***Judah slept with Tamar his daughter in law (Read Genesis 38:1-26).***
- 3- ***Reuben slept with his father’s concubine Bilhah, “While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with his father’s concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard of it.” (Genesis 35:22)***
- 4- ***Joseph betrayed by his brothers (Read Genesis 37:12-36)***

The entire above events are the work of the flesh and had harmed the family of Jacob and hindered and disturbed the good plans that He had for them. The above events not only had bad testimonies but a great damage not only to the family of Jacob but harm to the church.

If the same events are happening now a day in the life of the Christian family (Immoralities, injustice, jealousy, anger, revenge, etc) then such families will go into much suffering and got harmed, and will be bad testimonies for Christ and unto God.

Every church is formed of families and if such things and sins are happening inside the families then will spread into the life of the church and the church will go in turmoil and such church will not witness or communicate appropriately the message of Christ.

Finally after the betrayal of Joseph by his brothers, God mend the deep wound in the life of the family and brought the family together (***Read Genesis 42-46***) and fulfilled His good plan for the family of Jacob, and that was His church at that period of time with the following size: ***“²⁶All those who went to Egypt with Jacob—those who were his direct descendants, not counting his sons’ wives—numbered sixty-six persons. ²⁷With the two sons who had***

been born to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob’s family, which went to Egypt, were seventy in all.” (Genesis 46:26-27) And the LORD blessed the family of Jacob, His church, and gave them increase. Each of the twelve of Jacob’s children they got descendents and multiplied and increased greatly in number and prospered in Egypt: ***“⁶Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷but the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them.” (Exodus 1:6-7)***

But after the death of Joseph the family of Jacob, Israel, God’s church, suffered much: ***“⁸Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. ⁹“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. ¹⁰Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country. ¹¹So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly. ¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶“When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?” ¹⁹The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” ²⁰So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. ²²Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.” (Exodus 1:8-22)*** God is with the families and with His church. Here what we had read that the enemy, the devil using the Egyptians, trying to harm the families of the Israelites, the family of Jacob and the church of the LORD by harming each and every family by trying to kill their new born children and by putting more pressure in the work of their fathers. But the LORD defended them and stood beside them and upheld them in His grace and they multiplied and increased because the LORD was with them.

My Dear and Beloved: The message here that God is with you and will bless you as long you are with Him and is walking in His ways and the truth of His word. God will fight for you as long as you are living away from sin. Therefore as a family your strength will come from the LORD to carry on forward as long as you live in holiness and desire to live and lead your family and children in righteousness as you commit yourself to God and 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 shameful ways of the world _____ . I commit myself to fully abide in your ways and in your word and be willing to lead my family and children in righteousness. Lord protect me and provide all my needs and uphold me with your grace so I can do your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*