

The Duties of The Priest

Part 9

“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)

Each and every family it need direction and helps from the church so that will be able to take the right decision and make the right step to secure the future. And that is one of the importances of the church being the family of God. Each family that is part of the church can get the needful advice and to be helped in making the right decision especially at the time of crises and need.

After the death of Joshua there was no leader instead of him to fill his place as a leader over the whole people of God and to oversee and supervise the other offices, the priests and judges offices that was instituted by God to keep the system and the order for the whole community. Therefore people they started to deviate gradually away from the vision of God and from the word of the LORD. Compromises gradually filled the space and we can read many painful and grieving stories in the book of Judges about the life of the people of God. At the time of the judges the following was the usual, ***“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” (Judges 21:25)*** So everyone was doing what it seem good and right for him. But that does not mean that the people are doing what was correct in the eyes of God. When there is no central government and everyone is free to do what he feel best then mistakes will be more and troubles will be added to the people lives.

In the book of Ruth we read a story of a family that had happened at the time of Judges:

“In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ²The man’s name was Elimelech, his wife’s name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.” (Ruth 1:1-3) From the story we can read clearly that there was a famine in the land so a family from the town of Bethlehem decided to move out and to go to other place to live looking for a better living. Now that was the logical way of thinking for Elimelech family, since there was famine in Bethlehem then better to go to other place and that place for them was Moab. So they took the decision and they move out. But there is nothing mentioned that God had directed them to do that and nothing mentioned that someone from the people of God had given such advice to move forward with such a decision. They did only their own without consinning with God. They did their own because there was not even the system whom they can rely on and ask an advice.

But what was the outcome of that decision? ***³Now Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons.” (Ruth 1:3)*** So Elimelech escaped from famine but end up in death. And what else had happened to that family? His two sons ***⁴They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years.” (Ruth 1:4)*** Being away from the people of God paved a way for this family to take another wrong decision to marry with non-believers women. When you take a wrong decision and a

faulty step that will lead you to take another wrong step and decision in your life. And what had happened more? Another catastrophe for this family was the death of their two sons. ***⁵both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.” (Ruth 1:5)*** So from this brief description we can understand clearly that a decision which is away from God’s will may bring a temporal relief for the problem but finally will lead to harmful destructive effect. Certain time you may face certain troubles in your life and you will try to relief yourself by finding a resolution to bypass the problem but that will cause you later on more troubles than before. In another word if you try to relief yourself with temporal solution that might work for you and give you a temporal relief but after long period of time for example 5-10 years period of time the problem will bounce back on you and you will get more troubles as a consequence of your wrong decision in solving the problem.

The right thing that this family should do was to remain in Bethlehem and wait upon God to relieve them from the famine and not to be enticed to move away and search relief from Moab a place that God did not ordained to them to move to.

Now why that family was not able to take a right decision? Because as we read in the book of Judges, ***“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” (Judges 21:25)*** The lack of central leadership and follow up of the priests and judges offices in giving advice and right council was missing, therefore that family was alone in facing famine and to decide clearly what they need to do.

Here we can see clearly the good impact of the church authority in the life of the family. If the church and the leadership of the church will do its part to direct each and every family to do and live in the will of God, then no wrong decision or wrong step will be taken.

Later on Naomi took the decision to come back to Bethlehem, ***⁶When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.” (Ruth 1:6)*** Finally only Ruth went back with her mother in law and reached to Bethlehem at the time of the barley harvest. God truly confirmed His will that this family of ***Elimelech*** represented now by Naomi and Ruth they need to go back where they belong to fulfill the good plan of God to them. Finally Ruth married Boaz the kinsman redeemer of the family and the family line and God’s plan restored. God gave them a son and they named him Obed and ***²²Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.” (Ruth 4:22)***

My Dear and Beloved: The rule of the church authority and leadership is so important in the life of each and every family and that is why you need to abide with God’s word and be in line and agreement with the church leadership and council so they can lead you and direct you in what you need to do as you face life trials, and 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 realize now from your word the value of the church that you had placed me in to help me in taking the right advice and the sound decision in order for me to follow you wholeheartedly and walk in your word and doing your will. Lord I humble down before you accepting the teaching and the council that I received from you through the church that you place me in. Lord help me to abide and follow your ways, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*