

The Duties of The Priest

Part 18

“¹ Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for twenty-nine years. His mother’s name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. ² He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. ³ In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them. ⁴ He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side ⁵ and said, ‘Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your ancestors. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary. ⁶ Our parents were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the LORD’s dwelling-place and turned their backs on him. ⁷ They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel. ⁸ Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. ⁹ This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. ¹⁰ Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us. ¹¹ My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense.” (2 Chronicles 29:1-11)

In addition to the duties of the father and the mother as husband, wife, parents and priests for their children and families, they have a priesthood responsibility and ministry toward the church that they are part with and whom God had placed them in.

King Hezekiah in the above chosen passage, after he opened the doors of the temple, he *brought in the priests and the Levites*, it seemed that they had forgotten their duties and responsibilities to God and toward His temple. In the same way many they focus only on their jobs and their families and had forgotten their responsibilities toward God’s church.

God’s word today to the members of the church who had committed their lives and ways to the LORD is to come back to Him, get revived and start to serve the LORD and be worker in His church.

Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary: Before you start to serve God, cleanse yourself from sin and from worldliness, and from the work of the flesh and cultivate the fruit of the Holy Spirit that will enable you to take the character and personality of Jesus.

Non serving the LORD comes in your life because you are busy in serving other things like your ambition and your own plan that goes along culture and tradition; this can be a form of idol worship because no more focus on God but on personal plans and projects. And, *“Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.” (Colossians 3:6)* The more you make yourself busy with the world and be away from God the more your life will be difficult and be in trouble. And that is why many of the Christians are passing through hardships and troubles because they moved away from doing God’s will and they live according to their own plans and wishes.

Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us: Come back to God, cleanse yourself from sin and make covenant with the LORD that you will continue to serve Him and walk in His ways and plans until Jesus will come and take us with Him to heaven.

My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense:

1- Do not be negligent: Do not put away God’s calling and your responsibility toward Him and His church. You might be busy with much things but don’t forget to arrange your priorities well. Put God first and He will be the one to make the best for the rest of your life.

2- For the LORD has chosen you: You are chosen by the LORD for a good purpose. Jesus said in *John 15:16*, *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”* You are chosen by the LORD it means that your life is not your own, God has a certain purpose for your life; therefore you are called by God to cooperate with Him to achieve that.

3- To stand before him and serve him: You are called to stand for the truth and be willing to suffer for your obedience to the word of God. *To stand before* the LORD is standing for the truth. And standing for the truth will only come true if you live the truth. God called you to be light for others to guide them and direct them in the right path. And the way for you to do that for them is by living the word of God. They must see the word of God alive in your life.

4- To minister before him: As Jesus laid down his life for us, we are called to lay down our lives for others. *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13)* There is no place for selfishness in God’s service. We are called to serve others and help them to know Christ and draw near to Him.

5- To burn incense: A life of prayer trusting God that He will provide all our needs and will protect us and lead us step by step to fulfill His perfect plan and will in our lives.

My Dear and Beloved: I pray that as this word is reaching your hand and as you read and meditate on the message you will get refreshed and revived and rise up and throw away sin and negligence and come back to the LORD and stand for Him and for the truth and you will be a light and guide for others to draw near 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 life. Lord I am coming back to you. I commit myself to serve you and be a worker of yours with my brethren in your church that you placed me in. LORD continue to lead me and guide me to walk in the way and the plan that you already ordained for me to live, till you come and take me with you to heaven, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.