

The Duties of The Priest

Part 21

“But you are the 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.” (1 Peter 2:9)

The unfaithfulness that God found in the priest at the time of the prophet Malachi was the reason that God sent His admonishing and rebuking Message to them. Because they were people pleasers and did not train the people and discipline them to serve God wholeheartedly and to fully trust Him and offer their best to Him of their time, money and effort. The LORD sent to the priest a rebuke and admonishment as we can read here:

A- “And now this admonition is for you, O priests. If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honour my name,” says the LORD Almighty, “I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honour me.” (Malachi 2:1-2) The LORD warning is very clear to those priests, church leaders and pastors who are called to lead the people of God; they are appointed by God to do His will, if they will not do then instead of receiving God’s blessings they will receive the curse of God.

B- “Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.” (Malachi 3:2) God will extend His rebuke to the descendants and the disciples of those priests, pastors and church leaders who compromise and not teach and discipline their children and disciples with the true discipline and instruction of the word of God. And for those church leaders who are refusing to discipline themselves and the people under their care with God’s word and instruction, The LORD will really put them to shame. He will smear on their faces the dung from their festival sacrifices and will be carried off and afflicted with the same compromises that they live with and teach their people to do.

The LORD dealt with the priests at the time of the prophet Malachi and with those church leaders who are unwilling to stand firm for the LORD; by sending them disciplinary events, cursing their compromising work, not prospering and approving their children and disciples, and recoiling back on them what they had taught wrong; with what they failed the LORD, He made it bounce back on them.

“And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue,” says the Lord Almighty.” (Malachi 2:4) This is how God is dealing with any leader who compromise and even with you if you are unwilling to stand firm with the LORD against people wickedness and compromises. The message is carrying a rebuke in the form of warning, and the purpose of this rebuke is to bring you near to God and not to move you away from Him. God is rebuking you today to your face because He loves you and wants you to be His real priest and representative to the people. The LORD with this rebuke He is not rejecting you but wants you back to Him to serve Him wholeheartedly. He wants you to be His true priest that He assigned to lead His people. ***“My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction—because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.” (Malachi 2:5-7)*** From this Scripture let us discuss and conclude the following points:-

1) My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace: God speaking that His covenant with the priest was a covenant of life and peace. The term ‘covenant of peace’ was repeated also in ***Numbers 25: 10-13*** ***“The Lord said to Moses, “Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites. Since he was as zealous for my honor among them as I am, I did not put an end to them in my zeal. Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him. He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites.”*** God was pleased with Phinehas son of Eleazar and confirm His covenant of peace with him and His descendants because Phinehas stood firm for the LORD when he killed the Israelites man and the Midianite woman whom he brought to his tent and had adultery with her as we can read here: ***“Then an Israelite man brought into the camp a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting. When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear into both of them, right through the Israelite man and into the woman’s stomach. Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped.” (Numbers 25:6-8)*** God confirmed His covenant because Phinehas the priest stood firm and did not compromise with the people who do sin. The same for you today, if you stand firm with the LORD and side with Him and not with the people, the LORD will confirm His covenant of peace with you and your disciples, and you will live a peaceful life because you proved your faithfulness to the LORD. We are as priest called to rebuke and discipline those in the body of Christ who live in sin as doing immoralities, stealing, not giving tithes, telling lies, cheating, etc. You will do well and the LORD will be with you if you stand firm with Him; God’s blessings will flow to you and to the people under your care.

2) He revered me and stood in awe of my name: The true priest he honour God and teach the people to offer to God the best of what they have from time, talents and material possessions.

3) True instruction in his mouth: The lips of the priest are the mouth piece of God. The pastors and the church leaders should speak precisely and concisely the word of God. They should say the full truth, no compromising and no partiality. The word of God is the truth and when we say the truth the truth will set the people free, As Jesus said, ***“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)***

4) Nothing false on His lips: Telling half of the truth is a lie. False teaching is not only telling wrong things, but even telling part of the truth is a teaching against God.

5) He walked with God in peace and uprightness: The Priest should be honest and walk in integrity, in obedience to God and to His word.

6) He turns many from sin: The true teaching of Jesus Christ is hard but it brings true conviction, repentance and salvation in many people’s lives.

My dear and beloved: “For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction—because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.” (Malachi 2:7) It is your responsibility as a royal priest to speak the true instruction of the word of God. You are called to stand firm with the LORD and not to compromise with the people and condone their sin as you agree to pray.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to preach and teach in accord to the full truth of Your Word and to give precise instructions and teach your people your ways; nothing false will be in my lips. I will speak your words to sinners and I will stand with you and not compromise with people’s sins and traditional practices that are away from your word and instructions. LORD protects me and provide for me so that I will continue to do your will in this life until you come and take me with you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.