

The Duties of The Priest

Part 22

“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)

In addition to the responsibilities of the parents in each and every family to be the royal priests to nurture their children and raise them in the fear of the LORD, they have other responsibilities to do in the life of the church.

The following Scripture from what David did we can conclude further rule for the parents to do as royal priests in the life of the church. *“When David was old and full of years, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. ²He also gathered together all the leaders of Israel, as well as the priests and Levites. ³The Levites thirty years old or more were counted, and the total number of men was thirty-eight thousand. ⁴David said, “Of these, twenty-four thousand are to be in charge of the work of the temple of the Lord and six thousand are to be officials and judges. ⁵Four thousand are to be gatekeepers and four thousand are to praise the Lord with the musical instruments I have provided for that purpose.” (1 Chronicles 23:1-5)*

David in establishing the government after him, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. And he put around him the leaders as well as the priests and the Levites to do certain responsibilities. Today in the church there are certain duties and responsibilities the royal priests are responsible to do in order to perform the required work. From David arrangement in distributing the work among the priests, Levites and Israel leaders we can observe certain jobs descriptions for us today to do in the life of the church:

1- In charge of the work of the temple: To do and supervise the work in the temple that would include discipleship of the new believers and laid down Christ foundation in their lives.

2- Officials: Key offices in the church needs well equipped leaders to receive vision and impart them to the workers who are under their supervision, and to take important and critical decision to promote and impart progress in the life of the church.

3- Judges: To look into people lives and help them to know what is right and true and direct them to take the right decision and the correct steps in walking in accordance to God’s will. They are equivalent now to the local pastors; every pastor over his own congregation, to teach the people and instruct them in the ways of the LORD and help them to take the Christ’s way of proper living.

4- Gatekeepers: To receive the worshippers who are coming into the temple of God. They are Equivalent to the ushers who receive the new comers to the church services and make them comfortable in God’s presence.

5- Other Levites to praise the Lord with the musical instruments: This is to praise the LORD and to worship Him in songs using the musical instruments. That shows us the importance of the praise and worship ministry to be done only with workers faithful to God.

Another Scripture from the Old Testament we will study here that speaks about the important rule of the royal priests in the life of the church and in the community around them:

“⁴Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and turned them back to the Lord, the God of their ancestors. ⁵He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. ⁶He told them, “Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. ⁷Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.” ⁸In Jerusalem also, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites, priests and heads of Israelite families to administer the law of the Lord and to settle disputes. And they lived in Jerusalem. ⁹He gave them these orders: “You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the Lord. ¹⁰In every case that comes before you from your people who live in the cities—whether bloodshed or other concerns of the law, commands, decrees or regulations—you are to warn them not to sin against the Lord; otherwise his wrath will come on you and your people. Do this, and you will not sin.” (2Chronicles 19:4-10)

King Jehoshaphat went out among the people to turn them back to the LORD. And that is what we need to do, to admonish the people who went away from God and asking them to come back to him and serve Him. Jehoshaphat appointed judges in every city and commissioned them to judge carefully with the fear of the LORD, because they are dealing with people and the LORD who is watching does not accept injustice (Give to everyone his rights) or partiality (Don’t differentiate between the people or side with the strong) or bribery (Don’t allow material things move you to favour people over another). Serve the LORD faithfully and wholeheartedly; you are God’s ambassador to the people who are around you and they must see holiness in your life and you should be honest in your conduct among them and be truthful and fair with all of them. Do not be afraid from people, no one can harm you if you are going to do what is right and correct in the eyes of the LORD. Be strong **for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict.**

Pastors who are responsible on the local congregation are not to fear people but to be strong in the LORD and they are to instruct and rebuke the people using the law of God; they are to warn them: **‘not to sin against the Lord; otherwise his wrath will come on you and your people.’** Those who sin we are called to rebuke them and discipline them. We are called to instruct the people with the ways of the LORD and let them know the full truth. And those whom the LORD entrust to us we are called to nurture them and dictates on them to do God’s will.

My dear and beloved: The LORD had placed us in different places but we have three main responsibilities:- **1-** To live and our families in holiness and be good example to others to see so they can follow. **2-** To stand firm and not compromise with the people around us. **3-** To allow God to take us and expose our lives to be noticed and be followed by the people around us. To this you are called as you agree and 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 take my full responsibility toward my assignment in the church that you had placed me in. And to be faithful and wholeheartedly serve you among the people and the society that you placed me in. Lord I commit myself to live in holiness and to stand firm to teach the people and disciple them with the truth. Lord I commit my life and the life of my family into your hands to take us so that others my see our lives and give you glory. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*