

The Duties of The Priest

The Mission and the Work of The Church

Part 24

“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 pattern that the Bible gives us about the church at the time of Jesus will help us to understand our duties and responsibilities as royal priests to serve God and to live our lives unto him.

Jesus before he started His ministry He got water Baptized by John the Baptist: ⁹*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.* ¹⁰*Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.* ¹¹*And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:9-11)* Water Baptism the meaning of it is that we are burying our old life and rise from the water to live a new life as the LORD wants us to live in obedience to all His word and commands.

¹²*At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,* ¹³*and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.” (Mark 1:12)* And as we know from the gospel of Matthew and Luke that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by Satan in the wilderness, and in that period he fasted forty days and forty nights and overcome the temptations of the Satan. Fasting is so important for us to be led by the Holy Spirit and is a good preparation for us in serving God.

As we continue read the Gospel of Mark we can see how the LORD Jesus Christ was moving and serving, and from that we can have a clue for our duties and responsibilities as royal priests.

1- The message of Jesus was a message of repentance: ¹⁴*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.* ¹⁵*‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’* As royal priest we ought to proclaim to the people the good news of Jesus and point out to them that their repentance of sin will bring salvation and relief in their lives.

2- Jesus was calling people to serve God: ¹⁶*As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.* ¹⁷*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”* ¹⁸*At once they left their nets and followed him.* ¹⁹*When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.* ²⁰*Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.” (Mark 1:16-20)* Jesus He was moving and talking to the people the word of God. The same for us as we move around in living our lives among the people we must know and be aware that God is calling people through us. Wherever you are based God is calling people through you; in the street as you are walking, in the market as you are shopping, in the office as you are doing your work, etc.

3- Jesus went to the Synagogue: ²¹*They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.* ²²*The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.* ²³*Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out,* ²⁴*“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One*

of God!” ²⁵*“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!”* ²⁶*The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.* ²⁷*The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.”* ²⁸*News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.” (Mark 1:21-28)* Jesus went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath, and that may resemble the weekly worship of the church where the church members gather to praise and sing to God and to listen to His instructive word. Our church meetings should not be treated as a ritual and traditional thing. For since the LORD with us in every meeting then we expect new and excitable thing to happen in the mid of our worship. In that particular worship where Jesus entered the Synagogue one man got delivered from demon possession and was set free by the LORD. The miracles would happen in the mid of us as we come together by faith to worship the LORD and to listen attentively to His word and teaching.

4- Jesus visited Simeon’s house: ²⁹*As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.* ³⁰*Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her.* ³¹*So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.” (Mark 1:29-31)* The visit of Jesus was fruitful; Simeon’s mother-in-law was healed by the LORD. In the same way we need to go around and visit the people in their places of living and pray for them and minister to them by giving the word of God, and advising them with the right council and praying for them. ³²*That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.* ³³*The whole town gathered at the door,* ³⁴*and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.” (Mark 1:32-34)* The home visit of Jesus was a reason of big gathering around the house and many people came and received healing and many who are demon possessed got delivered. The home visitation and reaching new houses with the gospel of Jesus will end up with great fruit and blessing to many people and above all many will come to know Christ and got saved.

5- Prayer was important aspect in Jesus’ life and ministry: ³⁵*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.* ³⁶*Simon and his companions went to look for him,* ³⁷*and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” (Mark 1:35-37)* Prayer should be an important aspect in our lives and in our ministry. You need to keep time every day for prayer and better to start your day putting all your petition and supplication unto God. As we pray God will draw more people unto us to give them the gospel, and He will bring us to a new places to bring His word to the people who need His word.

6- Jesus kept moving to new place to preach the gospel: ³⁸*Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”* ³⁹*So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.” (Mark 1:38-39)* In the same way, we ought to have the desire to explore and reach new places with the gospel of Christ.

My dear and beloved: Paul said, “It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known,” (Romans 15:20a) That was the ambition of Paul to reach new people for Christ. For that we have been 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 fully in your hand to do your work and will. Change me and transform me Lord, makes my heart compassionate and loving to reach them with your gospel. Help me Lord and provide for me and protect me so that I can serve you. Lord! I am ready lead me to evangelize and reach new people, new area whether village or city or new nation or country with the gospel for your glory in Jesus, Amen.*