

The Duties of The Priest

The Mission and the Work of The Church

Part 25

“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)

As royal priests we have certain responsibilities toward God to live in righteousness and to spread His word to those who are away from Him.

Jesus before He ascended to heaven he promised His apostles that He will send them The Holy Spirit: ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*** The value of receiving the Baptism of The Holy Spirit is giving you the power to be a witness for the LORD and to proclaim to the people the good news of Jesus. Jesus said to His Apostles that they will be His witnesses in ***Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*** What these places meant to us today?

A- Jerusalem: Our own family and households. We need to reach out and disciple our children and the rest of our family members. But some are so busy with their families and they lost the compassion to reach the people who are around them. It is not enough to care for your family and children. But your life in your family should be used as testimony to encourage the people around you to come to Christ and follow him.

B- Judea: Those our immediate neighbours and the people that we are meeting daily in our work places, along the streets, in the shopping places, people in the next building, next street, etc. God had put people around us, whom daily we are in contact with. The purpose of God for that arrangement is to give them the good news of Jesus and preach to them repentance and forgiveness of their sins in His name.

C- Samaria: The adjacent and far side towns, villages and cities in the context of the same country that we are living. As we are working and care for our families and reaching the adjacent people around us, our hearts will be burning to move out and reach our adjacent village, town or city with the gospel of Jesus.

D- To the ends of the earth: The adjacent and far side countries of the world should in our hearts and minds. As royal priests our goal and mission is to reach them with the gospel of Jesus. The church should embrace the whole world with the gospel of Christ.

In ***Mark 16:15*** Jesus said, ***“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’”*** So Jesus commanded us to reach all the countries. And in ***Matthew 28:19*** Jesus said ***“⁴⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*** The world and all nations mean all the ethnic groups or type of people. For example if the church reach country with the gospel that is not enough unless it will reach all the ethnic groups in that particular country.

We have to be filled with compassion for the lost of all because Christ is coming soon, and when He will come He will judge the whole world, that is why we have to reach them soon

and with a warning message. Peter when he was preaching in Cornelius house he said about Christ the following: ***“⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.” (Acts 10:42)*** So we have the command and we have the message, so what we are waiting for, and why anyone of you should be reluctant to go forward with the urgent message of the gospel!

We are responsible and we are called to be accountable to what we had received from command and instruction from the LORD. Jesus said, ***“³²Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33)*** We should not be afraid, intimidated, or ashamed and put aside the gospel of Jesus. Sometime you are not telling the good news to others because you are afraid that you will be persecuted and not treated well. Jesus said, ***“³⁴Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – ³⁶a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”³⁷ ‘Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.’” (Matthew 10:34-37)*** When you want to serve Christ then you need to be ready of that, to be persecuted, or rejected and denied by others for the sake of Christ.

You might be ashamed because the people may not respond to the message. But even at the time of Jesus and at the time of His apostles not everyone responded to the message. Or sometime you don’t like to offend your friends and relatives and that is why you are keeping silent and not facing them with their sins and speak the gospel to them. If you want to please people then God will not be for you and will disown you. Be strong and courageous to speak the truth and present the gospel to them.

Paul said, ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” (Romans 1:16)*** When we are ashamed of the gospel it mean that you still have pride inside you, and that will hinder you spreading the gospel because your concern will be lot of things of this world, like prestige, profession, wrong motive and ambition, love of money, the deceitfulness of wealth, etc. All these things will come into your heart and makes you unready, burdened and ashamed of telling the gospel and the message of God to the people around you.

My dear and beloved: “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives. (Proverbs 11:30) God called you to be fruitful, bringing new souls and making new disciples to the LORD 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 put my life into your hand, willing to go on and preach the gospel and tell the people around me about you. Lord takes away my shyness and my fear and fills me again with your Holy Spirit to go on and to preach the good news and make new disciples for you. Strengthen me, protect me and provide all my needs, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.