

The Duties of The Priest

The Mission and the Work of The Church

Part 26

“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 responsibilities toward God to serve Him with gladness and with sincere heart so that He would bless us and satisfy us with good things. Now we need to understand that ministry can only flow through good attitude and character. A worker of God who is persevering in service, caring, compassionate, diligent, responsible, accountable, will accomplish a good service unto God and will be a channel of God’s blessings to others. We will read certain Scripture that would tell all the above and more of the profound characters that determine good outcome for the ministry:

The example of the good Samaritan: ³⁰*In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ ³⁶“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:30-36)* The good Samaritan in contrary to the priest and the Levite had a compassionate heart, inspite that he was travelling and having certain task to do but when he saw the victim he moved with compassion to help him and do his part and responsibility toward God. On observing what he did and how he behaved we can conclude the following:

A- He was motivation to please God: *“And find out what pleases the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:10)* Although as Samaritan was of bad reputation to the outsider, but that did not hinder him to humble down and be willing to be humiliated and continue to do the service that God would please with. He was not overruled with anger, disappointment, grumblings, frustration or doubt of God goodness and justice. He knew that what he did is pleasant to the Lord and he will receive a reward from the Lord, ²³*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)* When you serve God don’t wait for people to appreciate you or reward you, but rather do it to the Lord who will not forget your service and what you had done to Him and to the people who are in distress, *“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” (Hebrews 6:10)*

B- He was motivated with the right thinking: The good Samaritan he might be tight with schedule and responsibilities but he thought in the right way, that as he serve God and do his part to help that victim, the Lord would bring more relief and victory in his life: *“Blessed are those*

who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble. ²The LORD protects and preserves them—they are counted among the blessed in the land—he does not give them over to the desire of their foes. ³The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.” (Psalm 41:1-3) *“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)* If we read the passage we can pick three times the verb action “took” is mentioned: *But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse.* We know that He who give to the poor lend to God. Took is the past tense of take which mean he received. But the Samaritan did not receive anything but he gave instead. And this is the point here. The more you are giving is the more you are receiving back from the LORD, and this is the teaching that we admonish you to follow, *“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)*

C- He showed good management to his time: The good Samaritan was on journey, but as he saw the emergency situation of the victim, he interfered and show willingness and interest toward that man. But he managed his time well, since he was unable to stay with the victim over many days in the inn, *he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.* So he used the principle of delegation to a right person who could do the job well so he can go on to do the rest of his responsibilities. He used his money to buy time. Many people they are not able to serve the LORD because they are not managing their time well. Review yourself and your schedule and see what redundant and unnecessary things that you are busy with that bringing you far from God’s service; you need to put your priority right and to cut every activity or function that of no fruit to you or to the ministry.

D- He showed diligence and no laziness: If we go through the chosen passage that speak about the good Samaritan we can underline the following action verb that he did: *But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse.’ These action verbs it show diligence. Many they are not serving God not because they are unwilling but because they are lazy and their laziness had move them away from being responsible and fruitful workers. God calls you to repent of your laziness so you will bear the good fruit.*

My dear and beloved: *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)* God’s word in this issue show you good example that you can observe and follow, so you can be fruitful and effective in serving God 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 thank you for your word that showed me clearly my weaknesses and my shortcomings toward you and the ministry that you entrusted to me. Lord I repent of the following sins _____ . Renew my mind and restore me fully to serve you and walk in your ways, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*