

# *The Duties of The Priest*

## *The Mission and the Work of The Church*

### *Part 27*

*“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 by bringing the message of Christ to the people who are away from God and who are in need of Him and of His word to experience the new and good life in Christ Jesus our Lord. The following Scripture delineate in a clear way our responsibilities as a church to the lost souls who are around us to bring them to the Lord.

***The example of the men who carried the paralytic to the Lord:*** *“One day as He was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” (Luke 5:17-20)*

God’s love is for everyone, and is unlimited. He gave His only and One Son Jesus Christ as atonement for our sins. Such unconditional and sacrificial love of God to us when we receive it will change us and transform us, and will help us to start to love Him and to love others around us. Jesus great love was manifested on the cross when He carried our sins and shame, and suffered the pain of crucifixion to save us and to give us that new life and life to the full.

The great love of the Lord who gave His only and One son on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins should drive us and motivate us to love Him and to serve Him by carrying His love and His message to others. In the above passage that we read it shows us clearly the love of God in action. While the Lord Jesus Christ was teaching and the power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick; He healed that paralytic man and let him go home walking as we can read, ***“He said to the paralysed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” Immediately He stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.” (Luke 5: 24-25)*** The healing of Jesus to that particular man should motivate us more to bring others to Him; those who can be healed and got benefited of Jesus’ healing power and His grace of forgiveness. From Jesus and the men actions we can conclude and apply the following:-

***1) God’s love Motivate us to take the initiative:*** The real love of God in the heart of those men gave them the initiative to do something good that the Lord had planned for. They took the initiative to take care of that man by bring him to God’s care and Jesus love. We are called to take the initiative to bring others to Christ. Not to be like the ***Pharisees and teachers of the law*** who took their seats without showing interest to help others and bringing them to Jesus.

***2) God’s love motivates us to be in unity:*** The men who carried the paralytic united with one mind. The mind of Christ is to love others and help them. That help was in the form of bringing that paralytic man who was in need right in front of Jesus.

***3) God’s love motivates us to have compassion:*** Those who belong to Jesus they have in their hearts the compassion and the pain for others. They feel the need and the pain of the people who are suffering being away from God’s grace and love that is through Jesus Christ our Lord. They carried the paralytic man on their shoulders, and they might smell his urine and the dirt under him being handicapped, etc. We need to be willing to suffer for others and willing to sacrifice our time, effort and strength for the sake of the lost in bringing them to Christ.

***4) God’s love motivates us to overcome obstacles:*** To serve God and to bring people to Him it might not be an easy task and in most of the cases you will face hindrances trying to stop you to do God’s work. Hence in this event of the healing of the paralytic man, the place was crowded and no way to bring the man to Jesus. Things may hinder you and try to block you from serving God. Apostle Paul wrote to the church of God in Thessalonians the following, ***“For we wanted to come to you— certainly I, Paul, did again and again –but Satan stopped us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:18)*** Here we found Paul was stopped by Satan from visiting the church. In the same way those men who brought the paralytic man to Jesus where hindered by the crowd to enter. What we learn from this is the following: It is a normal matter to find something hinder you or try to stop you. You should not be discouraged; you may get disturbed for a short time but take heart this is a normal thing to face in serving the Lord. But surely the Lord will help you and guide you and will give you the success in your mission in serving Him. What you need to do is to stand firm and fully obey the Lord, then the devil will flee from you.

***5) God’s love motivate us to be creative:*** Even when there was no way to bring that paralytic man inside to Jesus because of the crowd, God gave them the wisdom and the creativity to bring him to Jesus by lowering him on his mat through the tiles into middle of the crowd right in front of Jesus. In the same way if you are really willing to serve the Lord He will give you the creativity to overcome the obstacles.

***6) God’s love motivate us to have greater faith:*** The service of those men to bring that paralytic man to Jesus was based on their faith unto Him that He can heal whatever sickness and He can deal with whatever problem. And that faith brought them to do that action and service to God. In the same way that faith in Jesus that He is willing to forgive whatever sin and He can change the people and transform their lives from whatever condition they are in to His image and likeness, motivate us to have greater faith that will enable us to do greater things for the Lord.

***My dear and beloved:*** As royal priests we are called to minister before the Lord by bringing the crippled, the handicapped, the sinners, and everyone who needs the Lord and His saving power. You are one of them as you are confident of whom you are in Christ and be willing to serve Him as you agree to carry the cross and bring the lost to Christ.

***My prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I trust you and I commit my life unto your hand to serve you and bring others unto you. Lord help me, guide me, encourages me and supports me to do this task. Thanking you Lord for all your love to me, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*