

## ***The Duties of the Priest Part 6***

### ***The Impact of One Family***

A priestly family is composed of father, mother, children, and God's Word as the ruling authority in their home. A Christian family driven by a purpose, led by courageous and Godly parents can make a great difference in the society and history of mankind. Their family life could be a challenge to the society, and would challenge the world to know Christ and to serve God. A Godly family could be productive and effective while they work together to achieve their purpose as God's chosen people to nurture priests, and servants of the living God. Such family can with God's help, produce a leader who will be able to impact the Assembly of God's people. Surely, God would enable a determined family that serves and honors Him to stand boldly and face the world with the uncompromising message of salvation.

**A. The impact of one family to raise up a leader:** In Egypt the descendants of Jacob became slaves to Pharaoh after the death of Joseph's generation: *"6 And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation. 7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. 8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. 9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: 10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. 11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. 13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: 14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour. 15 And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: 16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. 17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. 18 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? 19 And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. 20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. 21 And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. 22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive."* (Exodus 1:6-22 KJV) The devil was using the Egyptian rulers to harm the descendants of Jacob, the families of the Israelites. They put more pressure in the hard work of the fathers, and they killed the new born male babies of the mothers. Yet the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread. The Israelites stayed and multiplied in Egypt for more than two centuries till the time God remembered their cry for a deliverer and He sent Moses, a leader to lead them out of Egypt.

The story of how Moses was brought up and how he led the multitude of Israelites out of Egypt are truly amazing events that show how one family, the chosen people of God, and His church can greatly contribute and impact the society: *"1 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. 2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. 3 And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. 4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. 5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the women took the child, and nursed it. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water."* (Exodus 2:1-10 KJV)

In the midst of persecution, one family strived to save the life of their baby boy. They did their best to protect their child and to shelter him from the enemy because they had faith in God that the child could make a lot of difference in the future for the whole Israelite community. The whole family persevered and they did their best to protect the child. God saw their genuine concern to care for this gift of life and so He did a great miracle by providing the facility and care for the child to grow in Pharaoh's Palace. God moved through the lives of the members of this family who were united and determined to save the life of their boy. We can notice the following in what they did to save the life of their child:

- 1. The family acted in faith:** They saw that he was a goodly child. They discerned that God would do something with their child.
- 2. The family acted courageously:** They were not afraid of the king's edict.
- 3. The family cared tremendously:** They hid him for three months at home.
- 4. The family acted wisely:** They got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch to keep it safe in the water.
- 5. The family acted creatively:** They put a cover over the basket to protect him from the crocodiles of the Nile River that Pharaoh's daughter needed to open it to see the child.
- 6. They acted shrewdly:** The sister stood at a distance and then she said to the Pharaoh's daughter, *"Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?"* (Exodus 2:7)
- 7. They acted humbly:** His mother accepted the payment from Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, *"Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages."*

This family of Moses was living in God's will and acting in faith, and their fruit was Moses whom God used to deliver the people of God, the Israelites, the typical church, from the hand of Pharaoh. Moses became the princess' son but was nurtured by his family. He lived in the palace but was also trained by his parents. His own family though consisting only of a few members who lived for God and kept God's Word alive in their home had stood the test of

persecution in spite of all pressures and trials in life and they remain even today as a challenge for parents of this generation, and even for us, who are determined to raise up children to serve God.

**B. The Impact of One Family to Challenge the Church and the World:** Moses led the people to the border of the Promised Land. Then Joshua being Moses aide, was finally chosen by the LORD to become the successor of Moses to lead the people into the Promised Land. *“18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. 22 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: 23 And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.”* (Numbers 27:18-23 KJV)

Truly Joshua led the Israelites victoriously across the Jordan River into the Promised Land, and he fought the LORD's battles and won. He took many cities, defeated many kings and conquered almost all the allocated land that he ought to win for God's people. In his leadership he showed integrity and he obeyed fully the whole instructions of the LORD given him through Moses.

Joshua was not just a man for war and fighting, but he was also a man who cared for his family and trained his household to fear God and serve Him faithfully. In His farewell address to the Israelites people that he was leading, he challenged them to follow the LORD wholeheartedly: *“14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. 15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* (Joshua 24:14-15 KJV) Joshua found confidence in his own family that even if the whole Israelite community would leave the ways of God, he and his family will continue to serve God and carry on the message and the work of God to the next generation.

Joshua faced the people of God, the twelve tribes of Israel, with a message to throw away the idols that they have. And he boldly challenged them, that if they are not willing to serve God who brought them out of Egypt, then they need to choose which god and idols they will serve. If they didn't choose to serve God then they were choosing to serve the demon gods. Joshua told them: *“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* (Joshua 24:15 KJV)

**1. The gods your forefathers served beyond the River:** This represents the old religion that you had before you came to know God and follow Christ. They are also the traditional

practices that are linked with that particular religion. It is not enough to leave the old religion but the practices that are linked with that tradition as well because those practices are of sinful nature.

**2. Or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living:** This represents the gods in this world nowadays. They are money, electronic devices, lusts, power, fame, and everything that money can buy. They are the feasts offered to idols as Christmas, New Year, Birthdays, Halloween, Valentine, Father's Day, Mother's Day, etc. They are the immoralities in the form of boyfriend, girlfriend, dating, courting, live in relationship, divorce and remarriage, single parents marrying not the parents of their children, the homosexuality, etc. These are what most people are worshipping today. But the Word of God admonishes and says, *“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”* (1 John 2:15-17 KJV) If you love the things of this world then you are an idol worshipper. If you cannot separate yourself from worldly things and worldly desires, you cannot serve the living God.

Joshua was aware that traditional practices and worldly things would enter and engross the assembly because certain members and workers would invite or already were inviting them to turn back to their old life. But Joshua stood firm and he faced the whole congregation of the people of God. He was bold and confident because he was sure that he could serve God with his family even if no other people would stand with him.

Joshua was competent to boldly say to the complacent Israelites: ***“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”***

- A. Because Joshua's family was not following any old religious idol worship.
- B. Because Joshua's family was not adapting any worthless practices.
- C. Because Joshua's family was not influenced by the gods of the world or the people around them.
- D. Because Joshua was realizing the great impact of his family on the life of the congregation of the Israelites.

Joshua was challenging the whole community of the Israelites to follow the example of his family to live in holiness and to serve God and follow Him wholeheartedly. Because Joshua built up his full trust in God as he did his part to lead his family in serving the Lord in holiness. He cared for his family and his household and led them to fear God and live according to the ways of God. These were the expressions of his full trust in the LORD.

Let us be challenged by the leadership of Joshua who was a true leader. He managed his household and he was backed up by his family in serving the Lord. Many pastors and ministers serve God but they leave their families behind them. Before fully being involved in the ministry in the church, let us work hard to build our families. So that when our family matures and becomes strong, standing firm in the Lord, they will give us the bonus, the stamina and the encouraging strategy to correct and challenge the people to follow God, and serve Him like we do as a family.

Let us endeavor to obey God by caring for our families and raising our children in the fear of God and walking in His truth. Let us invest time in the family, give effort to read the Bible and pray with them. Let us be an effective leader teaching our household God's Word. As we continue worshipping the Lord together and training them to serve God, soon we will reap a harvest: ***"9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*** (Galatians 6:9-10 KJV) The Word of God instructs us to do good to the family of believers. Then, how much more we are called to care well for our families who have no one but us. We are assigned by God to care for them. If we do well in this aspect, then our families, spouses and children will be our co-workers to support us and the ministry that the Lord entrusts to us. They will be our encouragement in times of frustration and discouragement. They will be our reservoir to face the world and the people who went away from God. Then we can make a big impact in the community around us, and to the community of believers by setting them a model example of our family that they can see and follow. Our families that we raised up in the fear and service of the Lord, are the reserve of God to us, and they are our faithful co-workers to correct and rebuke backsliders. They are our faithful supporters in the mission field in reaching the lost around us with the uncompromising message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** Our family may be composed of only few members, but we can create a great impact as we walk faithfully with God and let His Word be the ruling authority in our home. Let us lead our family with confidence and make a great difference in the society and history of mankind. Let us be determined as Godly parents to nurture our children to become godly leaders of the next generation who will serve our God effectively and productively. Finally, our faithfulness to lead and care for our family would become a source of blessing to us and to the people around us. So let us be responsible and let us stand firm to do our part for God and as royal priests of the Lord.

Let us pray ...

***My Prayer:*** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your encouraging Word and the teaching that motivated me to go to build up my family members and children to go on together and serve you. Lord thank you for all the members of my family who are doing their best to help me in serving you.

*Come now to God and confess your sins. Confess and renounce your lack of giving time to your family, to read the Bible with them, to pray with them and to train them. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your love for the world, your yoke and wasting time with non believers and friends, and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your idol worship in the form of keeping practices of the old religion, feasts offered to idols, your lust and immoralities, your love for money, and wasting your resources on things unnecessary. Confess and renounce your lack of faith and easily get discouraged. Confess and renounce your compromises and your non willingness to persevere and stand firm in front of challenges and persecution. Confess and renounce your delayed obedience, and doing your own will and plan. Confess and renounce your non willingness to serve God*

*and doing the good works that He prepared in advance for you to do. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit myself to care for all my family members and build them in the truth of your Word and train them to serve you. Lord I commit myself to show them love and care so they will grow and get mature and start to serve you. Lord I commit myself to work with you to make the life testimony of my family attract others to know you and start to serve you and to cause others to revive and to commit their lives to follow you and serve you.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and committed their lives to build up their family members and invest in their children to train them to go on and serve you and be a good example to others to follow Christ. Lord I pray for more leaders that you will raise up from those youths and children in order to serve you and lead others into your Kingdom.*

*Lord, bless us as your church and lead us to continue to train parents and families how to care for their children and raise them in the fear of God. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to teach and train our children and disciples to go on and serve you that they will be the future leaders who will make a difference in the world. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

The Duties of the Priest Part 6. The Impact of One Family. Exodus 1:6-22. Exodus 2:1-10. Numbers 27:18-23. Joshua 24:14-15. 1 John 2:15-17. Galatians 6:9-10.

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