

The Duties of the Priest Part 19

The Mission of the Church in the New Testament

The Bible alone presents to us the pattern of the significant church in the New Testament. The Lord Jesus gave us His example of service and attitude to help us understand our duties and responsibilities as royal priests who serve God and who carry on the mission of Christ to the whole world.

Before the Lord Jesus started His ministry He was water baptized by John the Baptist: *“9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: 11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Mark 1:9-11 KJV) Water Baptism symbolizes that we are burying our old life and we rise from the water to live a new life as the LORD wants us to live in obedience to His Word and commands. Our new disciples and our children who come to know the Lord and who start following Christ’s teaching need to be water baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as Jesus commanded: *“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

After the baptism of the Lord Jesus, *“12 And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness. 13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.”* (Mark 1:12-13 KJV) Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness and was tempted by Satan. Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights and overcome the temptations of Satan. If we are led by the Holy Spirit to fast, we should abide because fasting is so important for us to overcome temptation. Fasting is also a good preparation before starting a ministry for God.

Reading from the Gospel of Mark we can see how the LORD Jesus Christ moved, served and ministered to people, and thus has given us an outline for our duties and responsibilities as royal priests:

1. *The message of Jesus was a message of repentance:* *“14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”* (Mark 1:14-15 KJV) As royal priests 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 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. 18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. 19 And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. 20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.”* (Mark 1:16-20 KJV) Jesus

was moving and talking to people the Word of God. The same for us as we move around while living our lives among the people we must know and be aware that God is calling people through us. Wherever we are based God is calling people through us; on the streets as we walk, in the market while we shop, in the office where we work. So, let us be always alert to take the opportunity to speak to people that God is calling them to repent and start to serve Him.

3. *Jesus went into the Synagogue:* *“21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. 22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, 24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. 25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. 26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. 27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him. 28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.”* (Mark 1:21-28 KJV) Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is a resemblance to today’s weekly worship as the church members gather to praise God and to listen to His instructive Word. Our church meetings should not be treated as only a ritual and traditional practice. Since the LORD is with us in every worship meeting, we should expect new and exciting thing to happen in the midst of our worship. In that particular worship when Jesus entered the synagogue one man was delivered from demon possession and was set free by the LORD. Miracles will happen in the midst of us as we all come together with pure hearts and one motive wrapped by sincere faith to worship the LORD and to listen attentively to His Word and teaching.

4. *Jesus had fruitful visit:* *“29 And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 But Simon’s wife’s mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.”* (Mark 1:29-31 KJV) The Lord Jesus visited Simon’s house and it was a fruitful visit; Simeon’s mother-in-law was healed by the LORD. In the same manner we go for a visit not to chat or to eat with people in their places of living, but we should always move with a purpose to speak the Word of God and minister to their needs by giving right counsel and praying for them. *“32 And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. 33 And all the city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.”* (Mark 1:32-34 KJV) The home visit of Jesus became a reason for big gatherings around the house. Many people received healing from sicknesses and many got delivered from demon possession. We go for home visitation with the purpose to reach out new families with the Gospel of Jesus, and surely we will reap good fruit as we meet their needs and as they come to know Christ and the power of His Words through our visits to them.

5. *Jesus got up early for prayer:* *“35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. 36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. 37 And when they had found him, they said*

unto him, *All men seek for thee.*” (Mark 1:35-37 KJV) Prayer was a very important aspect in Jesus’ life and ministry. Like Jesus, we should give priority and keep time for prayer every day. Let us start our day putting all our supplication into God’s hand, and petition Him to draw people unto us so we can give them the Gospel. Jesus would then lead us to new places and give us new opportunities to preach the Gospel.

6. Jesus kept moving to preach the Gospel: “38 And he said unto them, *Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.* 39 And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.” (Mark 1:38-39 KJV) Jesus kept moving to new places, from one village to another to preach the message of repentance and salvation. In the same way, we ought to have the desire to explore and reach new places with the Gospel of Christ. Apostle Paul said, “20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation:” (Romans 15:20 KJV) Paul’s ambition was to reach new places and new people to preach Christ. Nowadays many Christians travel but only for pleasure. They move to new places but they neglect the purpose and goal to preach the Gospel. We are the royal priests and we have been called to preach and to reach out to new people for Christ.

7. Jesus commissioned us to preach the Gospel: Jesus before He ascended to Heaven promised His disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit: “8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 KJV) The value of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to give us the power to witness for the LORD and to proclaim to the people the good news of Jesus Christ. As we receive the power to witness for Christ we are sent out to “Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

a. Jerusalem: * Our own family and household is our Jerusalem. We need to reach out and disciple our children and the rest of our family members. * Also our life and our family should be used as testimony to encourage the people around us to come to Christ and follow Him. Some of us are so busy with our families and we lose the compassion to reach the people around us. * Our role as royal priests goes beyond caring for our family and children. Jerusalem was an attractive city. In the same manner let us make our families attractive for people to know Christ our Lord.

b. in all Judea: Our immediate neighbors and the people around us is our Judea. The people that we meet daily in our work place, along the streets, in the shopping malls, families living next to our building, are our Judean territory. God has placed people around us who we are in contact with daily for the purpose to witness to them the power of God’s Word, 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 or continent that we are living is our Samaria. * As we work our daily routine and care for our families, we also need to reach the people in the adjacent towns around us either through visits or through communication devices. * Let us therefore nurture in our hearts the passion to reach the lost. Let us keep a burning desire to move out and reach the adjacent village, town or city with the Gospel of Jesus.

d. unto the uttermost part of the earth: * God’s plan is that all kinds of people, tongues, and races would come together to worship Him. * The Gospel should be preached to the very ends of the earth and then Jesus would come and take us with Him. * Let us take part in the ministry of the Lord to preach to the whole world the message about the kingdom of God. As royal priests our goal and mission is to reach every tongue and tribe with the Gospel of Christ. We should desire in our hearts to take part and to grab every opportunity to preach the good news of repentance and salvation. The Church of God embraces the whole world as a mission field.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus commanded us to preach to all the world: “15 And he said unto them, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*” And in Matthew 28:19, Jesus commanded us to teach all nations: “19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” (Matthew 28:19 KJV)

* The world and all nations mean all the ethnic groups, languages or types of people. The church should expand and workers should reach all the ethnic groups in a particular country to reach the whole world. * Let us not give up teaching and training even if it only one believer from a tribe or tongue. For that one disciple when he experiences the power of God’s Word would soon bring the Gospel of salvation to his own people.

We who are filled with the Holy Spirit have the compassion for the lost of all nations because Christ is coming soon. When Jesus will come He will judge the whole world. So let us reach them soon with the same message of Peter when he first preached to the gentile house of Cornelius: “42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.” (Acts 10:42 KJV) We have the command and we have the message, so let us not be reluctant to move forward but ready to go with the urgent message of the Gospel!

Sometimes we do not tell the good news to others because we are afraid that they will persecute us or treat us differently. But Jesus said: “34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:34-37 KJV) * If we love the Lord and we want to serve God we need to be ready to be persecuted, or rejected and denied by people around us or even by our love ones for the sake of Christ. * We may feel 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. * Sometimes we don’t like to offend our friends and relatives and so we keep silent and not confront them about their sins by speaking the Word of God to them. If we please people then God will not be pleased with us. If we do not acknowledge Christ to others He will disown us. * We are responsible and we are called to be accountable to what we have received from the Lord: “32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33 KJV) * We should not be afraid, intimidated, or ashamed and put aside the Gospel of Jesus.

* We are the Church and the chosen royal priests in the New Testament. We have the mission to the world and God has given us the message, the power and people to work with – our families, our spiritual leaders, and our church. * So let us be strong and courageous to speak the truth and to present the Gospel to others. Paul said, ***“16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16 KJV)*** * When we are ashamed of the Gospel it means that we still have pride inside us, and that will hinder us from spreading the Gospel because our concerns are the many things of this world like prestige, profession, selfish motive and ambition, love of money, the deceitfulness of wealth and influential people. All these things could come into our hearts and make us unready, burdened and ashamed of sharing the Gospel message of repentance and salvation to the people around us.

My Dear and Beloved: The Lord Jesus Christ bore all the pain and shame for our salvation. He finished His mission on the cross and He purposed to commission us for the lost. ***“30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30 KJV)*** God has called us to be fruitful, to bring new souls, and to make new disciples for the LORD.

Let us commit our lives to God and start to serve Him and do the mission works that He expect from us to reach the people with us and those around us and those in other adjacent places and cities and unto the uttermost part of the earth with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Let us pray and fast before we start our mission works.
- Let us baptize those who accepted Christ and continue to teach them God’s Word.
- Let us ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve Him.
- Let us keep our Sabbath and be regular to join our weekly church worship.
- Let us lay hands on sick people and heal them.
- Let us cast out demons and set people free from the power of the devil.
- Let us continue to visit houses to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus and the Word of God.
- Let us keep a regular time for prayer to commune with God and to read His Word.

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 death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me much about the mission works that you wants me to do for you, and thank you for the motivation and the encouragement that I received in this message to go and serve you. Lord thank you for all opportunities and the contacts that I have to preach the gospel and your Word to them.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins and commit yourself to serve Him. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your love for the material things. Confess and renounce your lack of commitment to God to serve Him and to suffer for Him. Confess and renounce your laziness, your bad stewardship, wasting your resources and your bad example to others. Confess and renounce your lack of love and compassion towards the lost souls. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, with friends and in bondage with the

Media, News and games. Confess and renounce that you are doing your will and plan and not the will and the plan of God. Confess your lack of reading of God’s Word and life of prayers. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to serve you and to get involved in the mission field to reach new people with the gospel and to do exactly what we learned today in this message. Lord I commit myself to evangelize and to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus. Lord give me the spiritual gifts that I need to serve you, sustain me and provide for me so I will continue to do your will.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented and committed their lives to serve you and willing to involve in the mission works and the ministry of your church. Lord lead them to new places and to new houses and families to reach them with your Word. Lord protect them from persecutions and help them to cast out demons and prevail against all the power of darkness. Devil we rebuke you and cast you out in the name of Jesus from the lives of those people they are reaching out.

Lord bless us as your church as we commit ourselves to continue the mission works and the great commission of Jesus to reach the lost. Lord lead us to new groups of people and to new places to preach the gospel and to spread your Word. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord lead us to evangelize, making new disciples, train new workers and plant more 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 you 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 19. The Mission of the Church in the New Testament. Matthew 28:19-20. Mark 1:9-39. Romans 15:20. Acts 1:8. Mark 16:15. Acts 10:42. Matthew 10:32-37. Romans 1:16. Proverbs 11:30.

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