

The Duties of the Priest Part 21

Worker's Attitude

The Good Samaritan and the Men Who Carried the Paralytic to Jesus

The royal priests have the responsibility toward God to serve Him by bringing the message of Christ to the people who are away from God. As workers we are to freely give what we received to those who are in need of His Word in order for them to experience the new and good life in Christ Jesus the Lord. **But we need to understand that the ministry would only flow through good attitude and character. The workers of God who have the joy and are perseverant to render services, caring and compassionate to the lost and diligent and responsible to God and God's people, accomplish good work unto God and they are a channel of God's blessings.** The following Scriptures delineate the right attitude and character of a worker in order to determine a good outcome for the ministry:

A. The example of the Good Samaritan: “30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. 36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?” (Luke 10:30-36 KJV) The Good Samaritan in contrary to the priest and the Levite had a compassionate heart. In spite of the fact that he was travelling and having a certain task to do, when he saw the victim he moved with compassion to help him and he diligently did his part and responsibility toward the needy person and toward God:

1. The Good Samaritan has motivation to please God: Although as a Samaritan he was disliked by others, it did not hinder him from humbling down or being more humiliated. Instead, he continued to do the service that God was pleased with, “10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:10 KJV) He was not overruled by anger, disappointment, grumbling, frustration or doubt about God's goodness and justice. He knew that what he did was pleasant to the Lord and he would receive a reward from God. “23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24 KJV) **When we serve God we do not wait for people to appreciate or reward us, but rather we do it for the Lord who will not forget our service and what we do to the people who are in distress. “10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” (Hebrews 6:10 KJV)**

2. The Good Samaritan was motivated with right thinking: The Good Samaritan might have had a tight schedule and responsibilities to fulfill but his mind was motivated by the right

thought and action. The passage mentioned two things that he did take: “34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him, 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee..” (Luke 10:34-35 KJV) ‘Took’ is the past tense of ‘take’ which means he received. But the Samaritan did not receive anything but he gave instead. He thought that as he served God and did his part to help that victim, the Lord would bring more relief and victory in his life: “1 Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. 2 The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. 3 The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.” (Psalm 41:1-3 KJV) “7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7 KJV) **And this is the point here. The more we give the more we receive back from the LORD. He who gives to the poor lends to God, “35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35 KJV)**

3. The Good Samaritan showed good management of time: The Good Samaritan was on a journey, but as he saw the situation was an emergency, he interfered and showed willingness and interest toward the victim. Yet he managed his time well. Since he was unable to stay with the victim over many days in the inn, “35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.” (Luke 10:35 KJV) So he used the principle of delegation to the right person who could do the job well so that he could go on to fulfill the rest of his responsibilities. He also used his money to buy time. **Many people are unable to serve the LORD well because they do not manage their time well and in addition they have no resources. Here we are advised to review our schedule and see what the redundant and unnecessary things or activities that we are involved with are. These hinder us from serving God. We need to set our priority right and to cut every activity or function that yields no fruit to our life and ministry, and prevents us from being a good steward.**

4. The Good Samaritan showed diligence and no laziness: Reiterating the chosen passage, here we find some words underlined: “33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.” (Luke 10:33-35 KJV) The underlined are action words that show the diligence of the Good Samaritan. Nowadays many Christians are not really serving God not because they are unwilling but because they are lazy and their laziness has moved them away from being responsible and fruitful workers. **God calls us to repent and turn away from laziness so that we bear good fruit and fruit that will last.**

“16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16 KJV) Moreover let us consider other Scriptures and learn from the examples of workers who were fruitful and effective in serving God:

B. The example of the men who carried the paralytic to the Lord: “17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. 18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. 19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.” (Luke 5:17-20 KJV) While the Lord Jesus Christ was teaching and the power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick, some men came carrying a desperate person. When Jesus saw their faith He healed that paralytic man and let him go home walking. “24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. 25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.” (Luke 5: 24-25 KJV)

The above event of healing should motivate us more to bring others to Jesus. The men who brought the paralytic man saw the crowd and many educated people gathered in the house. Maybe they did not even see the face of Jesus because of so many people there but they heard and they knew He was inside the house. So the men did not give up but found a way to place the paralytic man right in front of Jesus to be healed.

The great love of God who gave His one and only Son Jesus to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins should drive and motivate us to love Him more and to diligently serve Him by bringing people to His presence so that they would be forgiven, healed and delivered from the bondage of sin.

1) **God’s love motivates initiative:** The real love of God in the hearts of those men who carried the paralytic had given them faith and initiative to do something good. They took the initiative to take care of that man by bringing him under God’s care and power. We are the servants of God and we are called to take the initiative to bring others to Christ; not to be like the Pharisees and doctors of the law who took their seats without showing interest to help others or bring people to Christ.

2) **God’s love motivates unity:** The men who carried the paralytic were united with one mind – the mind of Christ which is to love others and help them. The men were united in mind and action. They loved God and they loved the paralytic so they moved and did not give up till they put the needy person right in front of Jesus. In the same way we need to work united to bring others to Christ.

3) **God’s love motivates compassion:** Those who belong to Jesus 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 and brought in a bed, and they might have smelt his urine and the dirt under him, who was handicapped. We need to be willing to suffer for others and willing to sacrifice our time, effort and strength for the sake of the lost to bring them to Christ.

4) **God’s love motivates to overcome obstacles:** In the healing of the paralytic man, the men faced obstacles. Jesus was teaching and the Pharisees and doctors of the Law who had come from every town of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting around Him. There was a crowd of people and so no way to bring the man to Jesus’ feet. * Similarly, many hindrances may block us from serving God and bringing people to Christ. Sometimes we experience discouraging situations while preaching or teaching the Word of God and we find it not an easy task. * We come across doubts and obstacles that stop us from doing God’s work. Hence Apostle Paul wrote to the Church of God in Thessalonica: “For we wanted to come to you – certainly I, Paul, did again and again –but Satan stopped us.” (1Thessalonians 2:18) Here we read that the apostle was stopped by Satan from visiting the church. In the same way those men who brought the paralytic man to Jesus were hindered by the crowd and the hypocrites, yet they were not discouraged. In our ministry we may encounter disturbances for sometime but let us take heart; it is a normal stage that we need to pass through while serving God. That is why we need to adopt a persevering attitude and surely the Lord will help and guide us, and He will give us the success in our mission for Him. So let us stand firm serving the Lord and fully obeying His Will, then the devil will flee from us.

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

6) **God’s love motivates greater faith:** The service of those men who brought the paralytic man to Jesus was based on their love for God and their great faith in the Lord who can heal whatever sickness and who can deal with whatever problem. Their faith in Jesus took them to do their service and action. We need that same manner of faith in Christ in order to complete our mission – to bring people to the full knowledge of Christ. God loves the world and sent Jesus to save the world. The Lord Jesus is willing to forgive whatever sin. He can transform people’s lives from whatever condition and He can change people into His image and likeness. These truths should motivate us to have greater faith that will enable us to do greater things for GOD. As royal priests we need greater faith to minister before the Lord, to bring the crippled, the handicapped, the sinners, and everyone who needs the Lord and His saving power.

My Dear and Beloved: “12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;” (Colossians 3:12 KJV) God wants you to be full of love and compassion to think about the lost souls and how to bring them to Christ. God wants you to be full of compassion toward those who are afflicted and in troubles that you will go forward and give your hands of help and mercy that through you may know who Christ is in their lives.

Come now to God and commit yourself fully for Him to go and serve Him, having the right attitude that He wants to see in you that reflects Christ in your life. Come now to God and commit yourself as a worker to the mission field of God to be willing to be sent to the lost souls and the places that He wants you to reach.

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 showed me the characters and the attitudes that you want to see in my life. Lord thank you for the teaching, the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message.*

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your lack of love and compassion and your lack of the rest of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Confess and renounce your laziness, your selfishness and your non willingness to suffer to help others and give them hand in time of troubles. Confess and renounce your anger, disappointment, grumbling, frustration, and the rest of the bad attitude. Confess your bad stewardship to your time and the various resources that God had given to you and your non willingness to give. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your love for material things. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, and with friends and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to repent of all my bad attitudes and characters and to cultivate more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life; love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, perseverance and self-control so people will see Christ in my life and to start to do the good works that you ordained for them to do for you. Lord here am I send me to the places that you want me to go to care for people, and to bring your gospel and your Word to them.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to do the good works that you prepared for them to reach the lost and to preach your gospel and your Word to them. Lord go before them and give them the strength and the resources they need so they will be fruitful and effective in the service that they are providing for the people.

Lord bless us as your church as we continue to teach and train your people to do your will and to do the good works of yours in serving other who are in troubles and in bringing the gospel of Jesus and your Word to them. Lord we commit ourselves to be diligent, full of love and compassion, having faith, united, persevering, and creative to bring others to you. Lord refills us 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 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.

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