

What It Means To Be A New Testament Priest

Class 5

The book of exodus chap. 12

I want to talk about what it means to be a new testament priest and understanding the priesthood and talk about the priesthood of the believer, the definition of what that means and true understanding of what it means to be a priest for the scriptures do declare that. But to do that we need to follow the scriptures and follow the order of God, as he develop the priesthood and we'll say this from the very beginning when God has a people, God set a priest and that is incredibly important to him. And yet many Christians don't live as priest unless they are the ones who pray over supper (I am the priest of the home therefore I pray over the meal). Well, there is a lot more than that.

Before the establishment of Israel as a nation, it all began with this individual. There was Job, Abraham and his family, and all these different people. And at that time before Israel was a nation; before there was a designated people of God, the male head of the house was the one who offer the offering and was considered the priest of the household.

The clear picture of this is expressed in **Exodus 12:3**

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house.

So, the father was the one who offered up the offering and was considered the priest of the family and this was how it was in the patriarchal period. This is the period where the father were coming along and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were the ones who stood on behalf of their family. But thing begin to change in the same book of exodus and we find the first movement of change coming from individuals

Ex. 19:5-6

This is the Lord speaking to all Israel.

Now therefore, if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.

This is exactly what is quoted in the New Testament. He is saying that to all of Israel. His plan was for all of Israel. The message of “A kingdom of priest” to all of Israel. And God began to set up the priesthood, and it is God’s desire that everyone function as a priest. Not just as a minister, or catholic priest/ person who pray. This goes to the very heart of what priest was meant to do. We are going to be a peculiar people; going to be priests. While the whole world was not. Peculiar to a certain ministry or area; you are peculiarly called to be priest or a people that in his mind, those people out there cannot get to God. They don’t know the right way, the right offering and they have to get the priest to tell them what to do or to offer what satisfies the Lord/ acceptable. The priest knows what is acceptable and satisfies the Lord. It is acceptable when he is satisfied. We are not trying to satisfy the Lord through the law, because he is going to strike us down and that is how we think most of the time. No, no. God does not take pleasure in cut up meat and slayed animals. It all represents Christ. It all has a specific representation of how the father is satisfied by his son. If we don’t know that we are living in shadow land, we are not thinking what pleases him as in what satisfies him, but in reality we are always trying to get out of trouble. Our concern is that we have done something wrong and we have to get out of trouble with God. But God is not looking peace at any price, he is looking for peace at a specific price; the price of His Son. It is not just somebody dying, because he says: if you offer my body to burn and have not love, it is all for nought. This means that it is not based on sacrifice as most people understand sacrifice; that is just being sacrificial. People are sacrificial, but it is not Christ in them, it is not love or the nature of God at work in them. So we can give our body to be burned and have not love. The key is love. Not the mushy one, but the nature of self-giving that renders for the satisfaction of the other. A lot of people give to satisfy themselves, but this is not the point at all. The point is that our heart will be toward another. For love cannot exist in a vacuum; love cannot exist in just one person. Now, self-love can, but God’s love must give and satisfy another, and not self. It is self-giving for the benefit of another even if it

costs you. So, it is not being sacrificial at your loss, but it is sacrificial to the satisfying of another.

If we understand what satisfies the Father, we would not offer out of guilt or out of the wrong spirit. Sacrificial living that has absolutely nothing to do with Christ, that somehow we are doing it FOR him and not BY him. There's a vast difference of the two. Originally God intended the nation of Israel to be a kingdom of priest and the nations to come to them and not the whole world, so that they, the Israelites, could tell them exactly what satisfies the Father.

The whole offerings speak of Christ. Many of the patriarchal offerings are burnt offerings. But take the sin offering, the priest would say: "Take your sin offering and lay your hand on the animal" because the deal is that, we need to die. The soul that sins shall die. The scripture doesn't say that the soul that sin just get forgiveness. Right here, we have many problems with the priesthood in the New Testament, because they of the Old Testament priesthood understood that the soul that sin needs to die. Yet, we changed it to that the soul that sins simply gets forgiveness. Many in Christian churches today have almost no thought that they needed to die. Yet not in Paul's mind. He said: "I am crucified with Christ" and "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." He understood and he walked as a priest and he was pointing all of the people to the acceptable offering whereby they may be accepted; pointing them to what satisfies the Lord. But it is all of a spirit of death in myself in identification to His death.

This is very important. A lot of times we find that we are trying to die. We heard many a time the song "I have decided to follow Jesus...". Yes, we want to follow the Lord and bear our cross, but what we actually need is to first die on the cross. So if we are going to take up the cross and follow Jesus without first dying on the cross, we will be having a bunch of whining followers. Praise the Lord that He saves these people; yet this is His intent: to have a kingdom of priest that were one with the Priest and one with the offering and understood what they meant.

Jesus understood in His mind that everyone that follows Him would have to die to themselves, because He knew that if He didn't get that then He will have people that is constantly whining and compromising. Whereas Paul and Silas, when they were thrown into a prison, they were singing praises unto the Lord. Modern day Christianity, when we are thrown into prison we will all immediately prayed for a release, thinking that this must not be from the Lord so that we can run out for freedom. Paul & Silas, on the other hand, just sat there unmoved upon the shaking and opening of prison doors. This is where the Lamb shines.

I remembered when I was in bible school, I went on this search for the eternal God and this search deeply impacted me. I started thinking about my relationship with the Lord and I know that He saves me and heals me; that He casts out sickness and demons and I have seen Him worked miracles and wonders of healings. Yet before the world began; before there was a Devil; before the whole fall of man and when there was no world and sickness and such, if I walked up to Him, **I would know Him AS HE TRULY IS**. If there was not any deliverance needed or sickness that needed to be cured, I would KNOW Him as He truly is. I started going down my list and found that everything that I felt I know about Him is just something temporal that was not going to be true for eternity. It would not be something that I am going to relate to Him through eternity. Because there would be no more sickness, no more demons to be bound for in Him we are perfect and are complete, for He is the head of all principalities and powers. So I realize that everything that I know Lord on and felt comfortable with the way of communication to Jesus is just **a temporal thing that He did and not who He was**. So then I cried out to the Holy Spirit to show me the Eternal One; the One that was, and is and is to come. The first thing that the Holy Spirit shows me is the Lamb of God, slain before the foundation of the world. On the throne, when it's all over with, the Lamb slain. This is who Jesus is and not what He does.

There's no Christianity without the Lamb and there is really no Christianity without oneness with the Lamb. And the whole purpose of man is to lose all the things of his happiness so that he may be joined to another and find another kind of happiness. In

finding that, would be after His kind. The seed that is Christ is in everyone that is born again. Any lack in us is because of our not growing up in Him in all things. But Paul said, “Not as though I am already perfect, but I press toward the mark...”, a pressing after the priesthood of the believer that we may offer up unto God constantly the sacrifice of the Lamb as we are one with Him; as we understand what satisfies Him.

God wanted the whole nation to be a kingdom of priesthood, not just a remnant that is offering the acceptable sacrifice. But something happened, the people set up to worship in their own way apart from the ways of the priesthood; the worshipping of the golden calf.

Ex. 32:26-29

Then Moses stood on the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

Only one tribe out of twelve tribe joined themselves unto the Lord, then they were made the priests. The Lord commanded them to cut out all the flesh; take up the cross and apply it. Apply it to every ounce of our flesh, every times something pops up, we are dead unto ourselves. I am not consecrated to my own happiness, my likes or dislikes, but only to God. There is not a perfect place for the flesh anywhere, but only as we are stand in Christ, we find that we obtain rest. The scripture says of not giving place for the flesh. Standing up for the Lord is standing up for what satisfies Him, standing up for the cross; standing up for the life of the Lamb. We are given precious gift everyday whereby we can say we are going to be with Him. But we do not want to be with Him, instead we want Him to be with us.

When the Lord came down to this earth and the Word incarnated, He was made flesh and He dwelt among us. The word “dwelt” is the word tabernacled; He tabernacled among us. *Israel, when they were in the wilderness, came out and say: “God is with us”, but He is up in the heaven.* Unfortunately, this is how many Christians relate the Lord these days. Yet God has a desire to dwell among His people; He has a desire to be with us. So He came down in the form of the tabernacle, and He became like in the midst of them, in the right middle of them. *The Lord is dwelling in the midst of us and blessing us and healing us, but in actuality we are dwelling outside of the tabernacle. Jesus incarnated does not change our life with His life. Peter still denies the Lord. So we see that incarnation did not bring about oneness.*

He wants us to be with Him where He is. That is going to take us to be made into a priest, because where Jesus at is in the Holy of Holies. So the Israelites have to take on a journey out from their comfortable little tent to the tabernacle to be with the Lord. When we get in there and see the Lord face to face and be changed into His image, all the former comfort and glory of our little tent are not going to be brought to mind. When the Lord Jesus is in the flesh and we behold him, we are not changed into His image from glory to glory. So we may study the word and read the scripture daily until we exhaust ourselves, but we are still unchanged by it. But when we enter into the Holy of Holies, coming through the veil where He is and we behold His face there, then we are changed into His likeness. For what does the scripture say: “When the veil is rent, then we behold Him face to face and we are changed”. Leave the relationship of having Jesus where we are at, and start going to where He is. *That is the story of Ruth and Naomi; they went out from their homecountry of Moab to join themselves unto Boaz who is figure of Christ. Ruth went under the authority of Boaz.* She did not come up and kneel beside him to ask for an extra handful of blessing, but she waited where he is for him. This is the heart of the new creation believers. *Our desires are not for more of His blessings, but hungry for more of Him!*

Well, only the priests can enter in where He is, going through the veil and wait upon Him. This is true also in Peter's experience with the Lord in the midst of the storm, saying "Can I come to you on the water". He did not say "Can I walk on the water also", but "Can I **COME TO YOU on the water?** Can I come to you under these impossible circumstances, Lord? And Jesus said "**Come**".

So you see that we live above the natural when He fills our view. Gravity does not pull us down to the earth when our eyes are fixed on Jesus. [For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.](#) In fact, we are not worrying about us at all because it is all about the Lord.

Heb 9:8

The Holy Spirit does signify that the way of the Holiest of all is not made manifest while the first tabernacle was yet standing.

This is the tabernacle of Jesus while He is in the flesh and the scripture points out that while this tabernacle; this fleshly way of relating to the Lord still stands in our mind, then we are not yet going in to the Holiest. Knowing Jesus after the flesh is the limitation that is to be done away for us to enter into the Holiest of all. This is knowing the difference between Incarnation vs. Christ in you.

Heb 9:9

Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience

This is pertaining to the Lord's fleshly tabernacle, this cannot deal with the conscience, but only the new relationship; making us members of His body; making Him to be the heart of who we are and His life expressing Himself. It is no longer my hands and my members, but members of His body and of His flesh. And verse 10 says "*Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come and high priest of good things*

to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building”.

This is about us getting up out of our place and going into the veil that we may join Him where He is. “[That where I am, you may be also](#)”. This is the answer to most of our faith problems. Our faith may get up and down, but the more we look to one another, the more it will pull us down and this takes us to a type of roller coaster ride most of the time. We may do this, and after a while we find that there is no hope in this situation. Well, the only hope is only Christ; Christ in you the hope of glory. [It is only by looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith that we find that we are stepping on good ground.](#)

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