

Proverbs on Pride

PREACH IT, TEACH IT DEVOTIONAL PART FIVE

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Exodus 2:14
Exodus 3:11-4:10
Exodus 19:6
Exodus 20:22
Matthew 5:10
Acts 1:8
Ephesians 1:13; 6:11-17
Revelation 1:6

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,
Help me to see my potential in Christ to serve others. Show me how to represent your true character and will to others. Help me to stand in the authority you have given me as your priest. . Amen



HUMILITY: COMING INTO HIS PRESENCE

“Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." Exodus 33:18-23 NIV

Exodus chapter two paints a portrait of Moses-heir apparent to the throne of Egypt-who decided to deliver his Jewish brothers from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh. Incensed by an Egyptian overseer who was beating an Israelite slave, he murdered the abuser. (Ex. 2:14) Moses spent the next few decades as a refugee from Pharaoh on the backside of the desert in Midian. Instead of saving his people, he threw away every opportunity he had upon being an influencer on their behalf-or so he thought. One day, many years later, as he was tending his flock, he saw a burning bush. God spoke to him in the burning bush and commanded that he go to set his people free. Moses gave a surprising response. Who am I that you should send me? I have no idea what to say? Why would Pharaoh listen? I can't even speak in public! (Exodus 3:11-4:10. What happened? This was the man who was convinced he could throw off Egyptian bondage with one hand tied behind his back. The answer is simple. God spent many years of his life humbling him. Then Moses was ready to lead Israel to freedom.

In Exodus 20:22, 33:9, among others, God spoke to Moses face to face. In fact, every time Moses spoke to God directly, his face shone with heavenly glory. Moses' miraculous ministry began with God's humbling process. We will only be used of God when we learn the same valuable lesson Moses did: humble yourself before God and He will be able to use you in a powerful way because *He* will receive the glory.

“...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood”
1 Peter 2:9a NIV

God's original plan was for the nation of Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Through Moses, God instructed His people to humbly follow Him:

“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me **a kingdom of priests** and a holy nation.”
Exodus 19:6 NIV (emphasis added)

As God groomed Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, He had a plan. When His people were freed from slavery and crossed into the land He'd prepared for them, God intended for the entire nation to be His emissaries to the whole world. Jehovah's grand scheme was to commission a humble group of people who had no king, no weapons and no reputation. His chosen people only had an invisible God who protected and provided for them. Jehovah's plan was to reveal His glory through His people. However, because the Jews rejected their Messiah, Israel never became God's "priestly" nation. Only the tribe of Levi served in the tabernacle and the temple. (Exodus 32:29) The High Priest alone went into the Holy of Holies to behold God's glory. How grievous for God that His beloved chosen people rejected the calling of "priesthood" to carry His message of salvation! Only after Christ's sacrifice of His own blood carried into heaven's Holy of Holies was man ransomed and commissioned to be priests, chosen of God by faith.

- God had a special plan for His Jewish nation. He chose them, provided for them and protected them. Do you believe that God has chosen you, as Peter promised in 1 Peter 2:9? List some ways that He has protected and provided for you.
- Often in Israel's history, God commanded His people to make an altar of remembrance to Him. When the Israelites passed through the Jordan on dry ground, when Jacob wrestled with the angel at Bethel and when Laban and Abraham made peace, God instructed His children to make a pile of stones or to celebrate a meal (Passover). List some marker times in your life when God revealed Himself to you. Write them down as an "altar of remembrance" to read when you need encouragement.

GOD'S GLORY IN CHRIST

The humble man lives in God's presence. Jesus perfectly exemplified how man can glorify God and proclaim His message to the world. God's desire to exalt the humble was to have priestly ministers to the whole world became a reality when Jesus died and rose again. He commanded His disciples before He ascended into heaven:

“...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to all the **ends of the earth.**”
Acts 1:8 NIV (emphasis added)

Jesus, in His model prayer in Matthew 5:10, prayed “your kingdom come, your will be done” (NIV). In God's kingdom on earth, we serve as His kingdom priests throughout the world. We don't wear special clothing, though we do bear the mark of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13)

As we mature as Christians, then we start serving as God’s kingdom priests. In Revelation 1:6 John writes:

“...has made us to **be a kingdom and priests to serve his God** and Father” (NIV) (emphasis added)

Every believer is God’s representative serving in His Kingdom. What a tremendous privilege and responsibility!

- Did you know that you were God’s priest serving in His Kingdom? How does it make you feel? Does it humble you? Thrill you? Encourage you?
- Can you think of some ways that you can represent God to others today? If you were speaking for Him, think of some examples of what you would say. What words would you use to reflect the character and will of God?

BEING GOD’S PRIEST

God has called you to be His priest. Every morning when you awaken, He listens for you to greet Him. He waits for you to “offer your [body] as a living [sacrifice], holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12:1 NIV). Then He wants you to put on your spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:11-17) so you are spiritually protected during the day. As you think about your day, tell God that you desire to be His servant-priest all day in every place you go.

The priest represents God to others and takes their concerns to God. Besides the chances to speak of our faith, we have the privilege to pray for those around us as well. In Romans 8:27, the Holy Spirit is interceding for us. As we mature spiritually, God gives us many ways to minister to others.

- When you first wake up tomorrow morning will you present your body to God as a living sacrifice, put on your spiritual armor, and ask God to make you aware of opportunities to speak for Him throughout the day?

As you embrace your calling with humility, you will fulfill God’s original plan for His people. Here are the results of taking up your priestly ministry in 1 Peter 2:9-10:

“But you are a 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. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” NIV