

# *What It Takes to Be A Priest*

Sunday, January 31, 2021  
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Heb 5:2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

- I. The Old Testament priests were different than the other Israelites.
  - A. They had no inheritance with their brethren.

Deu 10:8-9 At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day. {9} Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.

- 1. No earthly possessions.
  - 2. No home of their own.
  - 3. No earthly security.
- B. They had to go into the presence of God.
  - 1. They were the go-between between God and man.
  - 2. Because of this they had a much heavier responsibility to be holy.
- C. They had to have compassion on the ignorant and those that were out of the way.

- II. All Christians today are, in many ways, in the position of the priests.

1 Pet 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Rev 1:5-6 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, {6} And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

1 Pet 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

- A. We are like the Old Testament priests in that we are between lost men and God.
  - 1. We have the ministry of reconciliation, to do our best to bring them to an understanding of their lost condition and of God's plan of salvation.

2 Cor 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

- 2. We are to preach the Gospel to every creature, that they might hear, because:

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

- B. We are like the Old Testament priests in that we are not to seek an inheritance in this world.

Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

1. We are not to seek earthly security.

Mat 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

- C. Like the priests, we are to go into the presence of God.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Eph 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

1. Therefore, like the Old Testament priests, we are expected to be more holy.
2. Things are not allowed for us that others might get by with, because of our position and responsibility as representatives and ambassadors of God.
3. We ought to feel the responsibility for the souls of other men, because of our position.

- D. Like the priests, we are to have compassion on the ignorant and those that are out of the way.

1. The only way someone CAN have compassion on these people is through suffering.
2. Suffering causes us to have compassion on those who are suffering.
3. If our great high priest had to suffer in order to fulfill his role, then it is only more sure for us that we will suffer in order to be prepared to fulfill ours.

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

4. Being poor will cause you to be able to have compassion on the poor like you never could unless you had been there.
  - a) No one has pity on the poor more than the poor folks.
5. Being ignorant will make you able to have compassion on the ignorant more than anything else.
6. Realizing you have been out of the way, but found again, will make you able to truly have compassion on those who are out of the way.

- E. True compassion is not just a feeling of pity — it includes action.

- F. True compassion is not restrained by selfish interests.

1. You will say or do whatever is necessary to help the person, even if they like you less for it.

- G. We are not mediators between God and man, for there is one mediator – Christ.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

1. But our responsibility is to get people to the Mediator so they might be reconciled to God.
2. That is why we preach Christ, and not ourselves.
3. That is why our testimony is powerless without a holy life that shows forth truly divine intervention, so that others may see Christ in us.