

CHOSEN

Can you think of times when it is desirable to “be chosen?”

In what ways have you been chosen in your life?

How does it make you feel to be chosen from among others?

Exodus 19: 5-6— Now if you will carefully listen to Me and keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although the whole earth is Mine, 6 and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation.’...

What word is most repeated in this verse?

What does this say about how God see us in relation to Him?

What is the stipulation that precedes the relationship?

1 Peter 2: 9— But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Peter was writing to a group of Christian converts, probably Jews and Gentiles, who were living under intense persecution. The first part of the verse was reminding them of who they were in Christ. The second part of the verse, beginning with “so that...” explains to them the purpose for which they were chosen. When you feel that the world is beating you up and casting you to the side, it becomes easy to forget who God says you are. This lesson should be a reminder to us of our position and the duties that go along with it.

1 Peter 2: 3-5— if you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to Him, a living stone— rejected by people but chosen and honored by God— you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

What two words do these two verses have in common?

Priesthood means = _____

Today, most of us think of a priest as being like a pastor who works in a church. According to Peter, who belongs to the “priesthood?”

THE MEETING PLACE

Moses was the leader of the Israelites as they traveled through the wilderness for forty years. All along the way Moses took on the role of establishing a covenant relationship between God and His people. As you can image that would have been a weighty task on his shoulders. So rather than climb up the mountain every time to meet with God, Moses set up a special place where he could go to be alone with Him.

Exodus 33: 7-11— Now Moses took a tent and pitched it outside the camp, at a distance from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. Anyone who wanted to consult the Lord would go to the tent of meeting that was outside the camp. 8 Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would stand up, each one at the door of his tent, and they would watch Moses until he entered the tent. 9 When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and remain at the entrance to the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. 10 As all the people saw the pillar of cloud remaining at the entrance to the tent, they would stand up, then bow in worship, each one at the door of his tent. 11 The Lord would speak with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend, then Moses would return to the camp. His assistant, the young man Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the inside of the tent.

Do you have a special place that you go to be alone with God?

How important do you think it is to have a time—just you and God?

Do you think God looks forward to that time as much as you do?

Do you think God considers you His friend?

Notice that Joshua would not leave the inside of the tent, even after Moses left. After Moses' death Joshua was chosen to take the leadership of the Israel.

Do you think Joshua's love of lingering in the Presence of God had anything to do with being chosen to lead Israel? Why?

What kind of benefit do you think “lingering” with God has for you?

The Tent of Meeting was Moses’ special place to meet with God. Later, when Moses climbs Mt. Sinai per God’s instructions, God gives Moses a beautiful plan for a Tabernacle where all the people can have access to God through the forgiveness of their sins.

THE JOB DESCRIPTION

According to Peter, the collection of believers operate as a priesthood. The head of churches today may be called preachers, pastors, ministers, teachers, and elders, but _____ are called to be _____.

We know that the first priests were chosen to work and serve in the Tabernacle that God instructed Moses to construct while the Israelites were still wandering in the desert. So to understand our jobs as servants, let’s look at these guys.

HOW WE COMPARE TO PRIESTS

1. _____ BY BIRTH

The lineage of priests came from the tribe of Levite. Only the direct descendants of Aaron, Moses’ brother were chosen to serve as priests. The rest of the Levites served as musicians and carried the tabernacle pieces as the nation moved through the desert.

All _____ were _____, but not all _____ were _____.

Jeremiah 1:5—Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Galatians 1:15-16 —But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

Matthew 22:14—For many are called, but few are chosen.

God knew each of us before we were born. We are all born into a life where our Creator calls us to relationship, but only those who truly believe and love Him will dare to enter into that covenant position.

Like the priests, we are picked for service because of our birth—our _____ through the blood of Jesus.

2. CALLED TO _____

The duty of the priest was to intercede.

INTERCEDE means = To pass _____; to mediate; to act between parties with a view to _____ those who differ or contend;. To please _____

Who did the priests mediate between?

Who was the one they favored the most to please?

The High Priest wore a more brightly-colored garment than the regular serving priests. Each piece of his garment was symbolic—ultimately pointing to our “great High Priest” Jesus. Part of the High Priest attire included two shoulder straps which held a breastplate of 12 colored stones in place. Attached to those straps at the shoulders were two black stones—one on each side. Engraved upon those stones were the names of the twelve tribes that made up the nation of Israel. This was a to be a reminder to the priest of the burden which he bore.

THE PRIEST’S BURDEN:

To bring the needs of these _____ to _____

To bring the knowledge of _____ to these _____

As a priest, who would be engraved on your remembrance stones?

In what ways do you fulfill the duties of a priest to those people?

3. _____ TO SERVE

At the age of thirty, a Levite descendant of Aaron would be brought into the Tabernacle and anointed for service. It was a long service, complete with animal sacrifices and prayers. But there was one part of the anointing process to which we should pay attention.

Leviticus 8: 24— Moses also brought Aaron’s sons forward and put some of the blood on the lobes of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet.

Why do you think the new priests were to be anointed in such an odd manner?

EAR = _____

THUMB = _____

TOE = _____

What do you think is the significance of the priests beginning their ministry at age 30?

There were many facets to the job of a priest. Look at the list below and discuss how each one might apply to your priestly service today.

THE PRIEST’S TASKS:

- **To lead in worship**

- **To make sacrifices for the people, leading them to cleanliness before God**

- **To please God in the performance of their duties**

- **To guard the Tabernacle and it’s valuable furnishings**

- **To carry the Ark of the Covenant and the folded Tabernacle as they journeyed through the desert**

- **To offer prayers to God on behalf of the people**
- **To clean the Tabernacle and its furnishings**

The tribe of Levi was the only tribe not given an inheritance of land when they came into the Promised Land. They were given certain cities within the lands given to the other tribes, but they had no land to call their own.

Do you think this was a harsh deal for the Levites?

Why do you think God didn't allow for them to have their own land?

What does this say to you about your priestly inheritance?

How important is having priests in cities within the other tribal lands?

PRAYER TIME

As you pray, consider these prayer points:

- Thank God for choosing you to represent Him to the world. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice to redeem you and make you eligible to stand before Him.
- Ask God to show you the people who are your responsibility to help get to Him. Ask God help you be the perfect mediator between them and Him.
- Find something—a stone, a trinket, etc.—to be a remembrance to you to intercede for those people who God has entrusted to your protection and care. Ask Him daily to show you how to minister to them.