



THE PRIESTHOOD AND WORSHIP

2.4.2024

Review -

- We need the REVELATION that Jesus is our Great High Priest (Hebrews 3:1)
 - There is no priesthood without the Great High Priest
- We must RECEIVE the ministry of Jesus our Great High Priest
 - Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, **so that we may serve the living God!**
 - Jesus is not just Great High Priest, He is the eternal King Priest in the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7).
 - Everything about Jesus' priesthood is better.
 - The old priesthood was temporary - Jesus' priesthood is eternal
 - The sacrifices of the old priesthood were temporary - Jesus' sacrifice is eternal
 - The old priesthood had a veil of rejection, only the high priest could enter into the holy of holies, into the presence of God - Jesus' priesthood tore the veil and replaced it with His flesh, the veil of acceptance, for we are fully reconciled to God in the body of Jesus, we have access to God's presence now forever, just as He always wanted it!
 - The old priesthood only cleaned the outside of the body - Jesus' priesthood cleanses us on the inside
- We need to RESPOND to Jesus our High Priest!
 - That looks like belief and from the place of belief living in alignment with is now true about us.

Describe Braden analogy of someone being in a dark room and when the lights turn on they see everyone around them is wearing robes of righteousness and is full of joy because they know they are forgiven, free and clean but when they look down they see themselves as naked, ashamed and dirty...Jesus desires us to believe in the work He did on the cross to the point that when we see ourselves, we see ourselves righteous, holy, pure and clean because in Him we are!!! Believing this about ourselves is more vital than we realize living this way. You won't live holy, clean, and pure if you don't first learn to believe that is who you are in Christ our Great High Priest!

If we can get this down we are ready as a priesthood to serve and worship the living God! We can worship because of the blood! We can worship because of what Jesus has done for us. Today and next week we are going to talk about what it means to WORSHIP God as a priesthood!

Worshiping the Lord with our entire lives!

Romans 12:1 I beseech¹ you (or I urge you) therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your ²reasonable service (proper worship). And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

When it comes to worship, He doesn't just want your song he wants your whole life (Romans 12:1-2)

Nobody can give your sacrifice of worship or to Jesus for you. No one can lay your life down and lift your soul up to Jesus for you.

No one can give an offering that is the same as yours. No one can be obedient to Jesus for you. No one can love Jesus the way you love Him and from the story and testimony that belongs to you!

Worship = giving Jesus our entire lives

Those who worship must worship in Spirit and in truth John 4:24. We can't worship without the leadership of the Spirit, abiding in the Spirit in the truth of the revelation of Jesus and His gospel that makes our worship possible as our High Priest and lasting presenting our authentic true and whole selves to the Lord without pretense or performance, or pretending, but humbly postured as children before a holy God and Father who loves us with an immeasurable love!

Jesus modeled for us what true worship looks like.

Heb. 10:5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

Jesus is saying it wasn't animal sacrifices and offerings God desired. Those were illustrations pointing us to what was truly desired. Human beings fully submitted to God, giving God their bodies, minds, souls, hearts and strength. God knew only Jesus could model this for us. But now that He died, resurrected and sent His Holy Spirit to live in us, we can live this way too. We can actually give God our entire lives, worshiping Him in

humble consistent submission, pursuing His will, living to please Him with all of who we are!

Listen to Paul's words in Galatians...he lays out for us the key to worshiping the Lord with our entire lives.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

From this verse we understand that the key is not our self strength, it's not religion, it's not striving, but it is Jesus living through us, where by faith in Jesus our lives become one with His! This is the good news of the gospel, not just that Jesus died for us and rose but that He now lives in us! Our lives are now vessels for Him to reveal and manifest Himself. Is there any part of your life that Jesus doesn't have access to? Is there any part of your life that you are keeping to yourself, preventing Jesus from taking over and shining through?? This is what we should be asking ourselves when it comes to worship!

What will compel us to worship the Lord with our entire lives this way? It is the full revelation of our redemption!

Titus 3:3-5 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Notice how Paul says to Titus that we have been washed! There is no forgiveness and removal of sins without the shedding of blood (Heb. 9:22). And if our Jesus' had not forgiven and removed our sins from us we would never be able to come before God and Father to offer our lives to Him in worship. We've been blood bought and blood washed! And because of this can worship!

Our aim as a priesthood who worship with our entire lives should be to grow in our love for Jesus! It is increased love that we need, the love that we felt when when we first met Jesus

Revelation 2:4-5 Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

John 14:15 If you love Me, [a]keep My commandments.

LOVE IS MEASURED BY OBEDIENCE KINGDOM

Luke 6:46 Why do you call me Lord Lord and not do the things I say?

If we are going to be a priestly people, a priesthood that worships God with our entire lives we have to make up our minds now that we will never graduate from first love! That we will never become too sophisticated in our faith that the truth of the gospel and what Jesus has done for us, stops provoking our hearts to love and adore Him. We don't have to tolerate stale devotion (Nicki) , dry cold hearts towards Jesus, we can at any moment stop and ask Jesus our King and High Priest to awaken renewed love, we can repent and turn back to Him and do the first works again of prioritizing His presence, His word and time with Him and see our hearts bubble over again with fresh love for Jesus that produces obedience!

We need more love for Jesus, not less the longer we are saved. One of my fears as a believer is that at some point I'll look back and see that my love for Him reached a ceiling. That my Christian faith is living off of love I used to have to Jesus years ago but is absent of present day, right now burning love for Him!

Our collective worship as a priesthood is the fruit of our individual stories of salvation.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV) But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of **Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.**

What is your darkness to light story? What is your death to life story? What is your bound to freedom story? What is your broken to healed story?

Your story informs your song!

Exodus 15 Moses and Miriam SING after Israel is delivered from Egypt

Psalm 40:1-3 (NKJV) I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. **2** He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, *And* established my steps. **3** He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, And will trust in the LORD.

Our worship, praise, prayers and ministry flow from our testimony!

****Our story of encountering Jesus***

1 John 1:1-4 (NKJV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— **2** the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— **3** that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4** And these things we write to you that [a]your joy may be full.

Do you remember what it was like when you first encountered Him? When you first felt God's love flood your heart? When you first heard His voice? When you first felt His presence? The first time you felt safe in His arms? The first time you felt real peace? The first time you looked into His eyes and saw that there was no condemnation but only grace, forgiveness and a commitment to be faithful to you no matter what and all you had to do was put your trust and faith in Him!? YOU HAVE A STORY! YOU HAVE A TESTIMONY!

Our testimony is Christ died and resurrected and when that became real to me my life changed forever!

1 Cor. 15:1-4 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Peter 2:9 invites us to proclaim THE WORKS ... plural means we have more than one testimony

Testimony of conversion

Testimony of sonship truly believing in one's identity in Christ

Testimony of deliverance (drugs, alcohol, sexual perversion, pride)

Testimony of overcoming insecurity, self hatred, fear, depression, anxiety

Testimony of inner healing, victory over childhood trauma, and rejection,

Testimony of the revelation of the Kingdom

Testimony of calling

What do they all have in common, belief and response and transformation

Every believer has a story worthy telling

Every believer has a story worth hearing

And Jesus is worthy of every story!

Every time you tell your story it reminds YOU that you have a reason to sing, a reason to praise, a reason to give thanks, to worship, trust and obey the Lord with your entire life!

Your testimony is not just for you, it's for the future generations.

Psalm 145:4 (NKJV) One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.

Your testimony is not just for you, it's for the nations

Psalm 96:3 (NKJV) Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.

Declaring your testimony unlocks power to overcome the enemy

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Jesus is worthy of your testimony! He tells us to share them!

Luke 8:39 (NKJV) "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

* Demon man possessed and set free

Our worship as a priesthood is unto being witnesses for Jesus!

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

We are all witnesses of one savior, Jesus, one gospel and are to testify of Him! The Holy Spirit wasn't given so that we would have better personal encounters or experiences in the secret place as awesome, needed and special as those are. The Holy Spirit was

poured out so that we could live as witnesses who worship the Lord with our entire lives. Sharing our testimony, preaching the gospel, living the gospel, making disciples who make the disciples. We have the Holy Spirit power and anointing to do this as a FAMILY and a PRIESTHOOD!!

Our testimonies are at their core stories of when we repented and turned to Jesus. When we started to believe in Jesus and then began to experience the benefits of transformation that repentance and belief always produce!

1 Cor. 15:1-4 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, **if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.** Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

We all have a testimony. Don't make the mistake of comparing your testimony to someone else. You dishonor Jesus when you devalue your testimony! Every soul saved is a miracle and Jesus is worthy of each of our stories!

If we are going to worship the Lord with our entire lives it requires we keep our testimony in our heart and we continue to share it out of our mouths!

How to build your testimony

1. What was life like before Jesus? (Paul's life before Jesus Acts 26:1-11)
2. What was it like when you encountered Jesus and gave your life to Him? (Paul's encounter/conversion story Acts 26:12-18)
3. How has giving your life to Jesus changed you? (Paul's life after surrendering to Jesus Acts 26:19-23/Galatians 1:11-24)

In the spirit of our Disciple making focus I want you to take time this week to write out your testimony and share it with someone that has never heard it whether they are saved or unsaved just ask the Lord who is inviting you to share it with!

(5 min) Altar/Response Time/Communion

John 6:56-57 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

1 Cor. 11:23-29 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, [Ⓛ]“Take, eat; this is My body which is [Ⓛ]broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 25 In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

Examine Yourself

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and [Ⓛ]blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks [Ⓛ]in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the [Ⓛ]Lord’s body.

- 1. Praying for people who feel insecure about their testimony/story**
- 2. Praying for boldness and confidence to share your testimony/story as an act of worship**