



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Mantles – Part 2

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Main Idea – The mantles of priest and judge can be worn by the same person. Your family's legacy can be established in your household by how you wear, and take care of the responsibilities that come with, those mantles.

Biblical mantles establish household principles

- The different biblical mantles are available to each of us if we put ourselves in position to receive them.
- Those with a mantle embrace Kingdom principles.
- Those with a mantle establish Kingdom culture in their households.
- If practiced, the principles and activities that accompany each mantle can change your family and establish its legacy.
- God wants you to establish, practice, and carry forward Kingdom culture into the next generations.

The appointment / anointment gap

- Those who are appointed to receive a mantle do not automatically, nor quickly, receive the mantle's anointing.
- There is usually a significant time gap between being consecrated to serve with a mantle, and being qualified to function in that role.
- **Exodus 28: 1-3** – **Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests – Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood.**
- **Exodus 18 and Leviticus 8** describe the elaborate activities that went into the preparation of the garments, accessories, and facilities from which the priestly duties would eventually be performed. However, the actual work of the priests is not described until **Leviticus 9**.
- There was a process of preparation that came ahead of the activities of the position itself.
- Much of the material in the book of **Leviticus** should be understood as representing how we, ourselves, should interact with the world around us.

Those with a priestly mantle stand before God as intercessors

- The old Israelite priests appeared before God as intercessors for the people. God required the priests to appear before Him in a specific way, wearing:
 - A linen tunic
 - A blue robe
 - A breastplate with the stones of each of the 12 tribes of Israel
 - A turban/crown worn on the head
 - Bells and pomegranate seeds attached to the robe's hem
- That wardrobe represented the unique and important role of the priest in God's family.
- The Bible says each of us has been called to wear a priestly mantle in our own household. **1 Peter 2: 9-10 – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**
- Your priestly anointing in your home – as supplied by the Holy Spirit - will cover you as did the wardrobe of the Israelite priests.

The priest of your household

- The Israelite priests had three duties:
 - To make & receive sacrifices and offerings to God (giving)
 - To petition God on behalf of the people (prayer)
 - To keep the flame of God's presence burning (worship)
- Today, those same three activities will establish the Kingdom atmosphere in your own home.
- God will be faithful to respond to your priestly activities. **2 Chronicles 15: 3-4 – For a long time Israel was without a teaching priest and without law, but when in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them.**
- When you pray as your household's priest, remember to involve listening as well as talking. Prayer involves listening to God as well as talking to Him.
- God will bestow eternal blessings on you and your family.

The mantle of Judge

- The mantle of Judge is distinct from the mantle of priest. While priests were involved with spiritual matters, judges dealt with the practical conditions of life. In the Old Testament, judges:
 - Set boundaries
 - Enforced God's Law
 - Gave wisdom and counsel

- Made judgment calls
 - Led in battle
- Today, as the judge of your household, you should establish and maintain for yourself the same Godly functions. **Joshua 24: 14-15 – Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**
- Kingdom culture requires those with a mantle of judge to have vision for household boundaries and to protect Kingdom values within the household.
- Just as the Old Testament judge Deborah daily made decisions for the people under her, so should you make Kingdom decisions for your family. The story of Deborah the judge is found in **Judges chapters 4-5**.
- **Judges 4:4-5 – Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.**

Wear both mantles in your own household

- As head of your household you should wear both mantles of priest and judge.
- The Old Testament leader Samuel is the best example of one who simultaneously functioned as priest and judge for Israel.
- The story of Samuel's life as both priest and judge is told in **1 Samuel**.
- As priest and judge over Israel, Samuel anointed God's chosen leaders of the next generation.
- After he had served his time, Samuel's mantles passed to other individuals.
- The mantles you wear in your household are only temporarily yours. If you wear them faithfully, they will be passed on to the generation that follows.
- God's Kingdom culture is transferred, as a legacy, to each generation that faithfully bears the responsibility of wearing a mantle.

Reflective Questions for Mantles, Part 2

1. Why is it vital for Kingdom culture to be established in our households as well as in our churches?
2. What is accomplished when godly, household leaders are able to effectively serve as priests?

3. What is accomplished when godly, household leaders are able to effectively serve as judges?
4. What are the unique problems that contemporary household priests and judges are likely to encounter?
5. At the present time, do you feel you can more easily serve as priest or judge in your own household? Or, do you feel you can comfortably serve as both?
6. Are there any household adjustments you might need to make in order to more effectively serve as priest and judge?