CALLED TO MORE

MUSINGS FROM

1 PETER 2:9

1 Peter 2:4-10 NIV

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

1 Peter 2:4-10 NIV

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"

⁸And,

"A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall."

1 Peter 2:4-10 NIV

They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But 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. ¹⁰Once 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.

1 Peter 2:9 NIV

⁹But you are a chosen people, a <u>royal priesthood</u>, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who <u>called you</u> out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- Royal priesthood
 - Royal: basíleios, kingly, regal, leader of the people, prince, commander, lord of the land.
 - Priesthood: hieráteuma, to be busied in sacred duties.
- Called: kaléō, to invite, utter in a loud voice. Root means to command, to order.

Exodus 28:1-2 NIV

1"Have Aaron your brother brought to you from among the Israelites, along with his sons Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, so they may serve me as priests.

2Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron, to give him dignity and honor.

Numbers 3:5-13 NIV

⁵The Lord said to Moses, ⁶"Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. ⁷They are to perform duties for him and the whole community at the Tent of Meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁸They are to take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁹Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him. ¹⁰Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary must be put to death."

Numbers 3:5-13 NIV

The LORD also said to Moses, ¹²"I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are mine, ¹³for all the firstborn are mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for myself every firstborn in Israel, whether man or animal. They are to be mine. I am the LORD."

Numbers 18:6-7 NIV

⁶I myself have selected your fellow Levites from among the Israelites as a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD to do the work at the Tent of Meeting. ⁷But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary must be put to death."

Exodus 19:4-6 NIV

4"You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

5Now 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, 6you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Jesus Like Melchizedek

In perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come – one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹²For when there is a change of the priesthood, there also must be a change of the law. ¹³He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.

¹⁴For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.
¹⁵And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.
¹⁷For it is declared:

"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

¹⁸The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

²⁰And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

"The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever."

²²Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

²³Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶Such a high priest meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 8:1-2 NIV

The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

COMFORT		COMMITMENT		CALL
Whatever I want to do	MENTAL SHIFT OF THE MIND	Whatever I think I should do	SPIRITUAL SHIFT BASED ON REVELATION	Whatever it takes
However I want to serve		However I think I should serve		However it needs to be to build the kingdom
Whenever I want ministry to fit in		Whenever I think ministry should fit in		Whenever I'm needed
Because I've been asked		Because I know it's important		Because God has called and chosen me
WANTMINIMUMCONVENIENCE		THINKSTANDARDMEETINGEXPECTATIONS		REVELATIONEXCELLENCEBELIEVINGFAITH
Avoidance		Try to manage God, and create balance – creates tension		God at the center, and everything else around Him

Hold it all with an open hand.

Proverbs 16:9 NIV

⁹In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Be mindful of who you let speak into your life.

1 John 4:1 NIV

¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into this world.

Be faithful to the measure of favor you've been given.

James 4:13-15 NIV

¹³Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

The Vine and the Branches

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one that this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command. 151 no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business.

Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other."