

ACCESS: Priesthood of Believers2

Sermon: Access: Priesthood of Believers 2

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Its time for an uprising in the Kingdom led by Son's and Daughter's of a Royal Priesthood

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.” Isaiah 60:1,2

Arise: To emerge out of defeat into victory

Shine- God wants us to access the light in us and then through us to confront the darkness of uncertainty, confusion, divisiveness!

You 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.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God.

1 Peter 2:5; 9,10

Priest: One who is a bridge between the blessings of God and the brokenness of humanity.

Peasant Spirituality
(Creates Consumers)

Pious Spirituality
(Creates Critics)

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2:12

Does my priesthood lifestyle lead people to glorify God or be horrified with God?
Is my priesthood a bridge or a barrier?

How do you know when to turn the table and when to turn the cheek?

So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. John 5:19 NLT

To rise up in this dark world, we have to PRACTICE DISCERNMENT

The world is watching how we handle situations!

God may often use the people we disagree with to work in our lives -Sometimes opposition is an accomplice to the work of Jesus

Am I a Discerning Priest or a Disgruntled Priest?

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Romans 8:5

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." **Matthew 16:23**

Sometimes fighting *for* Jesus actually pits us against him.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **James 3:13-15**

If we're not drafting behind Jesus, we are drifting!

So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it. **Hebrews 2:1 NLT**

Questions

1. What area of your life do you need His light to shine in and through?
2. Read Psalm 119:105, John 1:5, John 8:12, Luke 11:34-35; James 1:17, Revelation 21:23. What other truths about the light do you find in these verses?
3. As you look at your time and energy - are you putting more into your home/life here on earth or are you focusing on your eternal home? Can you see the light of what God is doing or are you blinded by the darkness of this world.
4. What does a priesthood look like that is a bridge? In what ways am I a barrier for people? Am I responding to people, conversations, social media in a way that creates a bridge for God's brilliance?
5. What area of your life do you need to invite God's wisdom into? Are you drafting behind the truth and love of Jesus, or as you listen to all the different voices and opinions are you drifting?

Believers "must cultivate the mindset of exiles. What this does mainly is sober us up and wake us up so that we don't drift with the world" -John Piper

PRAY: God, what are you wanting to do in me right now? Am I discerning your will for me? Am I presenting Your heart and wisdom in my interactions with the world? Reveal in me the places where I have made agreements with the confusion and darkness of this world and time! May your discernment rise up in me! May I be one who carries wisdom, grace, and peace as I navigate this world for which I was not created as I anticipate the eternity for which I WAS created! Amen!