

## July 23

**Peter 2:9 (NASB)** <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **John 13:12 (AMP)** [Jesus asked,] **So when He had washed their feet and put on His [outer] robe and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?"**

Referring to my college days once again, I want to focus on my receiving the letter telling me I was not to return to OSU because of my low grades. I was not unaware of the requirements of OSU. The classwork was not too difficult for me. I was not without a support system at home or isolated without friends. I had scholarships, good advisors, a brother who was at OSU, and friends who studied. I knew all of that, yet I somehow managed to walk a path that led to my ouster. As I read that letter and the reality hit me that all my plans had come to a halt, I asked myself, "How could you not understand where all of this was leading?"

In the parable of the soils, Jesus tells us that only the good soil will bring forth a harvest (Matthew 13:1-23). The good soil is defined by those who heard the word AND UNDERSTAND it. In my college days, I was an example of one who heard the truth but failed to understand it. To understand goes beyond our knowing what something means. To understand means that truth enters our hearts and minds and becomes a part of us. When we understand, we realize how that truth is to operate in our lives and how we are put that truth into practice. After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus asked them if they understood what He had done for them. He was not telling us to go wash feet. To understand means we take Jesus' example into our hearts and live His example. We look into the spirit of the word. When I thought about Peter's words, I asked myself, "Do I truly understand that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation?" Jesus chose us; we did not choose Him. We are part of His kingdom, part of His royal court, not because of anything we have done but because of His grace and mercy. We are priests who stand between Him and those who do not know Him to bring reconciliation. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God, a holy nation. We are holy not because of anything we have done; we are holy because of the blood of Christ. Therefore, we are His priests who are not of this world who are humble ourselves in service to reconcile the world to our King and Savior.