

Living Stones

"But you are a chosen race, 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 marvellous light."

1 Peter 2:9

REFLECTION

When people meditate on this passage, most might have in mind the ordained office as the "priests" and what they do. But when Peter wrote about "priesthood," he was addressing Christians under his care and this passage addresses a wider audience of all believers in general. There are many things to be said about priest and priesthood, but I would like to share 3 traits priests bear, and they apply to every believer..

First and foremost, a priest is a WORSHIPPER. He or she, is first a worshipper before he is a worship leader. A priest worships even if God were the only audience, and not when a crowd gathers. As such he represents God's presence to the people. The priest doesn't only associates with the rich and famous but is also comfortable in sharing meals with fishermen, tax collectors, widows and orphans.

Second, a priest is a WAITER. He is patient. He is humble. He is familiar with the mundane. He would wait on everyone with the same enthusiasm and service standard as he would wait on God. The priest is equally comfortable with stillness as well as busyness. His gaze is always be on those he serves, being attentive to the needs of the One he is waiting on..

Finally, he is a WRESTLER. He is honest. He is as truthful with himself as he is with God. He is transparent. He is not afraid of his brokenness. The Truth of God draws, not repel, the priest to Himself; the priest knows that God's truth will restore and not condemn him. There is nothing that can be hidden from God's searchlight of truth.

One final parting thoughts. All priests are committed to a small, simple Daily Office (not referring to a place or venue, but a practice) - the Office of daily times of prayer, of being present before God and attentive to His leading. Some priests may move on to other offices (roles or responsibilities) but all still keep the Daily Office.

So, as a priesthood of believers in God, we are given this privilege to stand before God and serve Him gratefully, faithfully and attentively. And with that, let us pray.

PRAYER

God of unconquerable power and unquenchable light, look with favour upon your servants. By the power of Your Spirit at work within us, transform and make our life and ministry fruitful. Almighty God, whose Word is truth, prepare us Your servants in body, mind and spirit for the tasks You have set for us. Keep us in Your grace that we may increase and bless Your Church through our labours. Bless our life and ministry with Your presence this day and when night comes, grant Your servants rest and peace. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Remember, Prince of Peace, the peoples of the world divided into many nations and tongues. Deliver us from every evil that obstructs Your saving purpose and fulfil Your promises to establish your kingdom of peace. Deliver us from the curse of war and all that creates it, O lord. And we remember especially the peoples of Russia, Ukraine, Myanmar, China and the United States of America.
- Almighty and everlasting God, who can banish all affliction both of soul and body, show forth Your power upon those in need, that by Your mercies they may be restored to serve You afresh in holiness of living. And here, we remember especially those afflicted with illness, cancer and from COVID-19.
- Merciful God, You care for Your children as a shepherd cares for the sheep. We lift up, those we name in our hearts, their parents and friends, for Your special care today, for their loss is so painful and their grief threatens to overwhelm them May they find comfort and courage in Your unfailing love, enough trust to live without answers, and deep hope through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- O God of the vineyard, You call us to productive labour, to employ our gifts and talents for You. We pray for those who are unemployed or may soon be. Strengthen them in this difficult hour, uplift their spirits, and grant them a place among Your labourers until all be employed for the common good, and may we share fully in our true work of praising You with heart and mind and soul forever.

*"Do you love me?... Feed my sheep."
John 21:17*

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
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