

NOTES:

As Pastor Kim spoke about on Sunday, Jesus is our great High Priest. As His followers, we are to be like Him and exemplify the things that He does—we are His priests to care for those around us. God never intended there to be just a few human beings that are the go-between for God and His people. As we see in Exodus 19, there was never meant to be an elite group that carries the role of spirituality for the people.

We are called to be a priesthood of believers—to offer spiritual sacrifices to God (1 Peter 2). We don't provide physical offerings to atone for our sins or other's sins. Rather, Jesus has given us authority to point to His death and sacrifice in order to forgive their sins. We don't replace Jesus in the lives of others, we serve under Him—He is still our King and High Priest.

Priests have two primary roles: first is to minister to (worship and serving) God. God loves to receive your worship as a sacrifice—pointing to Jesus' sacrifice for us. Our serving pleases the Father. We worship God because He is worth it. We don't always feel like, but He is always worth it.

The second primary role is to minister to others as a priest. After we receive mercy from the Lord, we give that mercy out to others around us. This is done as we begin to better understand our own weaknesses—we minister to others out of our ugliness. Some of the most ineffective priestly believers focus on ministering only in the areas where they look good. We are called to represent the God that we serve, not to keep the focus on our own gifts and abilities. Being in touch with these weaknesses is not meant to condemn us, but it is meant to temper and remind us of our own needs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What does it mean to you to know that you are a treasured possession of the Father?

What do you think it means to be a priest who offers "spiritual sacrifices" to God?

As you begin thinking of yourself as a priest, what do you want to change in the way that you live your life?

Why does God love to receive your worship and service?

What are some of the barriers that stop you from ministering to others?

Why is it important to be ugly (remember your own weaknesses) as you minister to others?

VERSES:

Hebrews 5:1-4

Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to

weakness. 3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. 4 And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

Exodus 19:5-6

Now 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, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

1 Peter 2:5, 9

5 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.

9 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.

Hebrews 13:15-16

15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.