

## **PPT “Take it to Heart”**

The Priesthood Series Part 1

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Senior Pastor, Dr. Janet Cook

### **Kingdom of Priests**

Exodus 19:4-6 “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a **kingdom of priests** and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

### **Every Christ follower is a priest**

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation [race], **a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

Revelation 1:5b-6 “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has **made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Malachi 2:1-9

1-2 “And now, **O priests, this commandment is for you.**

**If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart,**

**To give glory to My name,” Says the LORD of hosts,**

**“I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings.**

**Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart.”**

The word “blessing” (and the verb “to bless,” barak) means “enrichment”--physically, spiritually, materially. A blessing is a gift from God, but it is a gift that comes with some empowerment or enablement. The opposite of the word “bless” is the word “curse”; it essentially means to ban someone, that is, to remove the person from the place of blessing, or remove the blessing. *Bible.org*

- God will remove His blessing from those who refuse to give glory to His Name.
- The verb “to hear” (shama’) has the meaning of respond to, or obey. The priests heard the Word of God read, but they were not hearing it.
- And if they will not listen, they will not make a decision (“take it to heart”). He is talking about the faith commitment to do God’s will.

3-4 “Behold, **I will rebuke your descendants**

**And spread refuse on your faces**, The refuse of your solemn feasts;

**And one will take you away with it.**

**Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you,**

**That My covenant with Levi may continue,” Says the LORD of hosts.”**

- For God to rebuke something means to change it, stop it, replace it.
- God’s purpose for judging the priests was so that His covenant with Levi would continue

**God reminds his messengers that they must teach and live the truth**

5-6 “My covenant was with him, one of life and peace,

And I gave them to him that he might fear Me;

So he feared Me and was reverent before My name.

The law of truth was in his mouth, And injustice was not found on his lips.

He walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity.”

- The priests were to Speak, Teach and Obey God’s law of truth in reverential fear. This gives life and peace.
- Life and Peace come from God through forgiveness of sin and guidance in His Word.

**Responsibility of Priests to teach God’s law**

7 “For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge,

And people should seek the law from his mouth;

For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

- Hebrew *mal’ak*, is the key theme of the book--Malachi, “my messenger.”

**God treats with contempt those who do not comply with the standard of spiritual service**

8-9 But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law.

You have corrupted the covenant of Levi,” Says the LORD of hosts.”

“Therefore, I also have made you contemptible and base before all the people,

Because you have not kept My ways but have shown partiality in the law.”

**We are living epistles of Christ**

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”

**Challenge:** Will you Take to Heart the responsibility God has given you as a priest in His Kingdom to teach the truth and live it?