

## BFF338 A Priestly Pray-cation

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I am well. However, a little weary and yet very encouraged. The spirit is encouraged and the body is trying to catch up. How are you?

**Scott:** I have plenty of days like that.

**Scott:** I'm good. I actually have some big news though. I am going to be a grandpa.

**Steve:** Congratulations.

**Scott:** Thank you. It feels a little weird. I don't feel like I'm old enough to be one, but it's very exciting. I'll put the oldness part of it away and rejoice over the new life and the excitement and all that.

**Steve:** Be thankful you're young enough as you become a grandfather because you're going to need extra energy. When did you find out?

**Scott:** A couple weeks ago. My wife and I have had to hold onto this secret for a couple weeks because they've been slowly telling everybody and making sure everybody knows. Now, I'm pretty sure everybody knows, and if they don't, they should by now.

**Steve:** You're going to have little aunts and uncles living in your house then too?

**Scott:** Yes, and they're excited as can be, though. Again, they feel a little weird. They're like, "I'm going to be an uncle, that's weird."

**Steve:** The apples don't fall far from the tree, so you have little Scotts in the house saying, "This is weird."

**Scott:** Yes.

**Steve:** I just came back from a working pray-cation.

**Scott:** Is that your new word?

**Steve:** That's my new word.

**Scott:** I like it. That's a good one.

**Steve:** Well, I'm a part of a Bible study/prayer meeting. We don't have a real strict format with the guys and we've been meeting online for a couple of years now. Once a year we try to carve out the time and meet face to face.

We were together Sunday through yesterday morning when I dropped a couple of guys off at the airport on the way home. I was trying to think of words to describe it. In a sense, it's a vacation because we took off time from our daily routines and it was very refreshing. However we didn't do anything especially vacation-ish. We got up, sought God, read Scripture, and prayed.

We prayed for our nation, prayed for the elections, prayed for lots of different things. It's a working pray-cation because as we know Scripture says, "This is the work of God that you believe." This is one of the things that God designed us to do is to

believe Him, stand by Him and work with Him. I'm going to build on that a little bit today.

**Steve:** Let's pray: Father, thank you for this time that You helped us to carve out of our schedules and get together to seek You. That's why we were together. We wanted to connect with God. We want to seek Him together as a team, which we've become. I pray that You'll help me to share some of the overflow now so that we can all be encouraged. This is dark days that we live in and we're looking for encouragement and we're looking for more of God and I pray that You'll help me now, help us all in Jesus name, amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Now, you won't be surprised because you know that Psalm 100 looms large in my thinking. I continue to apply these same principles for the past five years. This is my anniversary month, October of 2018, God led me to apply these strategies. I come into His presence giving thanks, praising His name, making a joyful shout, etc.

This past year I have also been immersed in seeing Jesus in the tabernacle. The whole purpose of the tabernacle was to show us how to come into God's presence in the holy of holies. We saw that Jesus is the way into God's presence. "Nobody comes to the Father except by Me." We are designed to know God, to love God, to worship God. This is who we are as believers.

I told these guys, "I am a worshipping warrior." That's what God made me to be. I love to worship God. I love to know Him better. I love to be in His presence. All of these feed off each other. I like to fight the good fight of the faith and resist the devil. I like to bind the strong man. This is part of what God, I believe, designed me to do and has helped me to do.

What the four of us did each day was read through priestly studies that I have compiled. I've assembled 12 priestly studies based on these principles of Psalm 100 and the Tabernacle. I read them twice a day. These are more than studies.

They are working with God Scriptures. These passages lead me into His presence, and they also help me to believe Him. It says in Revelation that, "They overcame the devil by the word of their testimony and by the Blood of the Lamb."

Believing in the Lamb and the blood that He shed is part of it and also testifying to it, saying it out loud, reading them out loud, declaring them is my testimony if you will.

I'm going to read through one of these studies today and you can give me some feedback. At home reading through one study takes me 5 to 10 minutes. As we were together it took us an hour and a half. We would stop, talk about it, pray over it, and then comment. Each study is two pages of scripture with one hymn interspersed in the middle.

Before I read a study, I'm going to talk about one aspect of what it means to be a priest today. I hope that we understand that we are all created, designed, and called to be priests. I don't know image comes up in your head, when I say we are all priests.

I'm going to read two passages from the New Testament and two from the Old Testament. Isaiah 61:6, "You will be called priests of Jehovah, ministers of our God." 1 Peter 2:4-5, "As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." That's a great calling.

Then Exodus 19:3-6, "Moses went up to God, Jehovah called to Him from the mountain saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the sons of Israel, you yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself.

"Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine, and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

**Revelation 1:5-6**, "Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, firstborn of the dead, and ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us, and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father."

I hope that God can free us up from the idea that only Moses and Aaron were supposed to be the priests. God said to the whole nation of Israel, "If you will do these things, obey Me, keep My covenant, you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests."

You remember that time when God was going to take some of the Spirit that Moses was carrying and He was going to put it on 70 others in Numbers 11? Two of the guys that were supposed to come didn't show up, Eldad and Medad.

"Jehovah came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all Jehovah's people were prophets, that Jehovah would put His Spirit on them!" (Numbers 11:24-29)

I think that's something we need to get our mind around right from the start, that this is something that God designed for all of His people. He didn't just want Moses and Aaron to be the only two. He wanted them to be a kingdom of priests.

That's what it says in 1 Peter 2 and in Revelation 1. That's what God has made us. He has made us a holy priesthood. It's not just the man in front of the church on Sunday morning. It's not just a few people that have been specially trained to be priests. We are a holy priesthood. He made us a kingdom of priests.

This has been on God's heart from the beginning, that all of God's people would be prophets and priests and all of God's people would commune with Him like Moses communed with Him and all of God's people would be faithful to Him, and stand by him.

That's a tough pill to swallow. The Israelites, as we know, when God appeared on the mountain said, "I'll tell you what, Moses. You go talk to Him." I'm sure that God's heart sank, if that's possible. The message Moses was communicating was, "No, this is for all of you. Come on up. There's room on the mountain. He wants to speak with all of you. I know Him. He loves you to pieces, and He wants you to be His priests."

That's going to be the first thought for today. We are a kingdom of preists. All of God's people.

Now let's read through the study which I am attaching as a separate PDF. Each of these is always under construction so to speak. I am regularly tweaking and refining them. Each study is built around one attribute of God. This is number 1 of 12 focusing on God being holy. He is the Holy One.

Isaiah 6:3 says, "Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory."

"Thus said the Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, 'in returning and rest shall you be saved, and quietness and confidence shall be your strength.'" The first passage I am reading reminds us that God is inviting us into His presence. "Come on. Return unto Me."

The next Scripture is as if I am coming into the tabernacle. The first thing I'm going to do is offer up a sacrifice, which we know is the blood of Jesus.

I have two verses here. "Come now, and let us reason together," says Jehovah.

"Though your sins are a scarlet, they will be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." Isaiah 1:18.

I read that passage, and I believe it and sometimes I stop and I ask God to make sure that my robes are white, that my sins had been forgiven. I apply the blood of Jesus, and if anything comes to mind, I can ask God to forgive it.

Another passage, which is similar, is Hebrews 9:14, "By the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered Himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins."

Then I move to the basin of bronze, where the priests had to wash their feet.

That's exactly the scripture for this one. "You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar. You shall put water in it, with which Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet. When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to Jehovah, they shall wash their hands and their feet so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout his generations."

I don't physically wash my feet, but I believe that the water of the word washes me. It's part of the process not coming close to God.

Then I envision coming into the outer tent, the holy place, where the priests were to fill up the golden lampstand with oil, representing the oil of the Spirit.

I have two verses on the Holy Spirit, "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:26.

Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so, I am sending you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit is the one that helps us to pray, helps us, fills us, encourages us, teaches us, and throughout the 12 studies we're going to learn about different aspects of the Holy Spirit.

The priests were also to offer a pure one year old lamb twice a day. I am believing in Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Now we're back to Psalm 100, "Make a joyful noise or a joyful shout as we come into His presence." This one, I don't get to shout here, but I'll say it loudly. "Jehovah is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him." (Hab 2:20)

"Ascribe unto Jehovah, you kindreds of the peoples, Ascribe unto Jehovah glory and strength; Ascribe unto Jehovah the glory due unto His name: Bring an offering, and come before Him; Worship Jehovah in holy array." (1 Chronicles 16:28-29)

**Steve:** Now we are to come into His presence with singing. Which hymned you think I chose?

**Scott:** I don't know. Sorry.

**Steve:** Holy, holy, holy.

**Scott:** I'm not at my sharpest at this hour of the day. Sorry.

**Steve:** I normally sing to God myself, but it was exhilarating to sing with three other men.

These sections take a little more time, as we come into His presence based on Psalm 100, we first make a joyful noise, then we sing, then we give thanks, then we praise His name. Then we ask Him for ears to hear.

We gave thanks based on these passages and each person could adapt the verse and use it as the basis for being thankful. We're not just thanking God for a new pair of pants or that we have a grandchild coming. Even though those are legitimate and you can do that, what we're trying to do is focus on this passage to give thanks.

"There is none holy like Jehovah: for there is none besides You." (1 Samuel 2:2)

"We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." (John 6:69)

"Exalt Jehovah our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for Jehovah our God is holy!" (Psalm 99:9)

"I am Jehovah, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King." (Isaiah 43:15)

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, Who was and Who is and Who is to come!" (Revelation 4:8)

Then we praise His name. His name is the Holy One. Several times, the Holy One. I have a bunch of scriptures here, "Our Father, who art in heaven, Holy or Hallowed be Your name. Praise you, Father, for being Holy. I am Jehovah your God, the Holy One of Israel."

"Our Father Who art in heaven, holy is Your Name!" (Matthew 6:9)

"I am Jehovah your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." (Isaiah 43:3)

"The angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.'" (Luke 1:35)

"Your husband is your Maker, Whose name is Jehovah of hosts; and Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth." (Isaiah 54:5)

"Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" (Psalm 103:1)

Lastly we ask God for ears to hear based on the life of Samuel. "Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down, and if He calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Jehovah, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And Jehovah came and stood, calling as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant hears.' Then Jehovah said to Samuel ..." (1 Samuel 3:9–11)

Where two or three are gathered, God is present. Myself and another guy, we read that passage and both of us noticed something that we'd never noticed before. Here it is, "Samuel went and laid down in his place and Jehovah came and stood."

I never thought of that. I always thought of God speaking from three stories up, or up in the heavens, and this voice finding its way to this little boy sleeping in the temple, but it said Jehovah came and stood. What a picture, God standing over Samuel going, Samuel, Samuel. Standing right there. Whoa!

When you get together, you comprehend things that you don't see when you're by yourself. Families could use this. You could use this for a family devotion. You could read them through in the morning when you get together.

These studies combine elements from Psalm 100, come into His presence and elements from what we've studied in the tabernacle. What do you think?

**Scott:** The verse that comes to mind for me is Hebrews 6:1, where Paul is saying, "Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity." This isn't stuff you do when you're just wallowing in the infancy that apparently a lot of people were doing back then and still are today, I think.

When he talks about, he says, "Not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death and of faith in God, and instruction about cleansing rights, the laying of hands, the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment," those don't sound all that elementary to me.

I venture to say to a lot of the church, those still sound pretty big. What you're talking about is moving beyond that and connecting scripture from all over the place and delving deep and getting to know God intimately. Sounds like a great practice.

**Steve:** I agree. We need to lift up our heads a little bit because it also says in Hebrews, "Quit limping about, make straight paths for your feet." Remember that passage?

Sometimes that we're so beaten down by life that we forget that He called us priests. That's very clear.

He calls us priests and He wanted all His people to be a priest. If nothing else, let's just get that from today. Let's ask God to encourage us that we can all step up to the plate and be priests.

We know the scripture says, "Every joint supplies. Everybody has something to offer the Body of Christ." We might be sitting in our homes saying, "I'm a caregiver. I don't have time to run away to the mountains for three days with guys and pray and seek God."

Yes, but you can be in faith. You can wake up in the morning and say, "I believe in you. I love you. I'm believing for your kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven." This is another thing we did, is we said the Lord's Prayer together.

Just saying the Lord's Prayer every day, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." That is a prayer. That's just not a nice thing that you say that you learned in Sunday school. That is a powerful prayer when you're asking God to have His kingdom come to earth just as it is in heaven. Then, later on in a prayer, "To deliver us from evil. Lead us not into temptation. Give us our daily bread." That's a priestly prayer. Do you see that?

**Scott:** That was my other thought that you're recapturing what being a priest is meant to be like. A lot of these passages you're reading, I recognize, not just from my own reading but from the liturgy from the Episcopal Church I grew up in.

This stuff is written into the services, a lot of it. There's a reason for that. It's because this is really powerful stuff. If you actually get it into your heart and your spirit and you exercise this spiritual muscle.

**Steve:** That's one of the things that priests do, is they pray, but they also proclaim truth. That's what we just did. We read the scriptures aloud. That's part of our testimony. We believe these scriptures as we're reading them. That's the work of God that you believe.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, I'm telling you. I am encouraged every time I read these passages because they helped me to believe in God as the Holy One, the only one. I think God enjoys this, [laughs] listening to His people pray and believe Him and testify to Him and ask Him to do stuff for them. God is glorified in our efforts.

Father, help us, all of us that are listening today. Help us to walk into these...I have even put it. I believe that there's something that you've designed for us to walk in and to be. Yet, we don't feel equal to it, we feel beaten down.

We say, "Well, that might be good for Billy Graham or some other saint." But no, this is something that we all can do. Scripture says, "This honor have all the saints." Moses cried that all God's people were prophets.

God said, "Hey, I you are my people and a kingdom of priests." Peter says that we are a kingdom of priests, help us to step up into that role. Without getting all stirred up,

just help us to simply, calmly stand up and walk in what God's called us to do today. Help us to that end, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.