



Life Group Study Notes

“Who Will Reach A City To Touch The World?”

Ps. Jim Laffoon - March 11, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Have you ever served your local community? If so, what did you do?
- What non-profit organization do you especially like? Why?
- If you could change one thing in your community, what would it be?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Who would God choose to reach our city?

God chose the whole nation of Israel to be the people he wanted to use to reach the surrounding nations with the truth and blessings of his kingdom.

Exodus 19:5-6 ESV *“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all 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 people of Israel.*

But most of Israel shrunk back from God’s calling and purpose. They failed to fulfill their priestly purpose.

Eventually Jesus came and fulfilled everything Israel was supposed to be. He was and is the ultimate, sinless royal priest. Now he has delegated this duty and privilege to the church. We are to serve under his authority, pointing people to him.

1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

We are not only God’s royal priests, but we are also God’s temple. God has placed his Spirit in us. He desires to manifest his presence among us and through us for the benefit of the world around us.

1 Peter 2:4-5 ESV *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.*

We fulfill our responsibility as God's royal priests by first of all coming to him. We must seek him and spend time in his presence through his Word and his Spirit. Our access to God is his gift to us. Our time with God is our own choice. We must choose what to do with God's precious gift of himself to us.

Our ability to effectively pray on behalf of others depends on our coming to God. Our effectiveness in reaching others with the Gospel depends on our seeking God and spending time with him. Our impact in effecting godly change in our communities depends on our listening to God in quietness and solitude.

To whom much is given, much is required. We are accountable to God to fulfill our responsibility to be his royal priests. Each of us will give an account to Jesus one day at the Judgment, when we will either be rewarded or not for having fulfilled our duty.

Hebrews 10:19-24 ESV *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...*

Who would God choose to reach our city? Us. He *has* chosen us. We are his choice. He has immeasurably blessed us and has now called us to be a blessing to those around us. Will we fulfill our calling to be God's royal priests? Will *you* fulfill your calling?

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What does it mean to be God's royal priests?
- How does God want you to take up his calling to be his royal priest?
- What might happen if we all took our royal priesthood seriously?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the honor and privilege of being his royal priesthood.
- Ask God for knowledge, understanding, and wisdom to be his royal priests.
- Ask God for spiritually lost or straying people who you can serve by praying for them, doing good to them, and talking to them about God and his Son, Jesus.