

The Need for a Priest

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Leviticus 8:1-9.

B. God teaches us about ourselves through pictures in the Old Testament.

II. God only expects performance from us based on the provision He gives.

A. We need a substitute for relationship with God and restoration of our relationship with man.

B. We need a priest--we need help after the sacrifice is provided.

C. We need a revelation of a standard to know what is right and wrong.

1. We need instruction.

2. We need assurance of application.

3. We need help in the emotional problems that arise.

III. A priest is a mirror by which we see a reflection of what we are like.

A. Priests were psychiatrists of the Old Testament.

B. The essentials of the priesthood.

1. The priesthood needs the Word of God.

a. The Word of God is linked with water.

b. The washing of the Word prepares one for ministry.

2. Everyone who knows Jesus as Lord is constituted a priest to the world and the body of Christ.

a. The coat is a picture of God's righteousness.

b. A girdle pictures servitude.

c. The robe pictures visible righteousness.

d. The ephod pictures the power that the High Priest Jesus gives us.

e. The band around the ephod shows that Jesus is willing to meet us wherever we are.

f. The breastplate shows that Jesus always holds His own close to His heart.

g. The urim and the thummim were used to determine the mind of God for specific events.

h. The crown of the high priest shows that the great purpose of the priest is to make us whole before the Lord.

3. The priest was to be righteous as symbolized by his garments.

4. The priest's effectiveness comes from the Spirit, which is pictured by the oil.

5. Priests deal with the problems of sin and guilt through sacrifice and food.

6. Priests were to deal with the whole congregation so that all might know what priesthood meant.

7. The activity was to take place in the Tabernacle, which is a picture of man suggesting that God would teach us truth from within.

Application questions:

1. Why is saturation with the Word of God a prerequisite for ministry?

2. Which element of the priest's clothing strikes you the most? Explain.

3. How would you respond to someone who says that priests are only people who are in leadership in the church? Defend your answer.
