

October 11, 2020

## A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS...FOR JUSTICE & MERCY

### EXODUS 23.1-9

After giving the 10 Commandments, some other, more specific laws are given. Among them are laws for justice and mercy.

“... you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Exodus 19.6

### God gives commands that enables us to perform as Kingdom Priests.

- 1. Be careful of going along with the crowd. v2

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Matthew 7.13-14

- 2. Whenever you can, help your enemy. v4-5

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5.43-44

- 3. Fight for fairness and justice for the poor and underprivileged. v6-7

Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless. Isaiah 10.1-2

- 4. Don’t make life difficult for foreigners.

“Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt.” v9

### How to be a Kingdom Priest in 2020:

- Be alert to hypocrisy in your life.

Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” Luke 12.1

- View all people as image-bearers of God.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1.27

- Open your eyes and ears to the hurting people around you.

“...you know how it feels...” Exodus 23.9

- Be aware of your biases....and confess them.

- Be willing to confront injustice and oppression when you see it.

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. Isaiah 1.17

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, **in humility value others above yourselves**, not looking to your own interests but each of you **to the interests of the others...** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, **so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”** Then you will **shine among them like stars in the sky** as you hold firmly to the word of life. Philippians 2.3-4, 12-16

### SHINE BRIGHTLY AS KINGDOM PRIESTS!!!

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?

Love God, Love Others, Learn Jesus, DO SOMETHING!

Today’s sermon can be found on our website [beaverdambaptist.org](http://beaverdambaptist.org)