

CNL Season 2009

4.1 How to Be a Priest of Your Home – Pt 1

Transcription

Praise the Lord. At this time, we have something special as we continue and worship. And I just want to encourage you as John and Mike come out here. Where are they, I know you are out there somewhere. We would have you, first of all be encouraged to pull out a piece of paper that is in your bulletin that is like this. It says “How to be a priest of your home”. “How to be a priest of your home”. Now, the reason that I want these two men up here right now is because as you can see, we are going to be looking next week, actually, did you know that by looking at the priest’s robe, it foretells the coming of Jesus Christ. Did you know that there were supernatural mysterious things, which actually the breastplate, from things that have been copied throughout the years, but from the breastplate, we can actually tell how in Scripture, God supernaturally spoke many times to the prophets and to the priests, but today, what I want you to do, by having John stand next to him, you see a contemporary person in John, wearing a tie and a shirt. This looks like the rest of us and you have the high priest who from centuries ago was the priest of the temple and today we are going to be looking at how we as men and you may be a single mom overseeing your home, but how we as overseers of the home are supposed to be priests literally in our home. How we are supposed to be. activating the duties of the priest to raise a godly home. So, as these gentlemen go down to the brazen altar at this time, as you remember, I want to connect the Bible as a real thing for us today. What does it mean to us? So, John symbolizes the practical application of these things. Here you see the high priest, of course, he brought the animal up and he slaughtered the animal that he sacrificed. John, for example, the ways that we as believers give and John as he

pulls his wallet out of his pocket, one of the realities is giving financially, taking care of our families, taking care of our home, taking care of the body of Christ, the spiritual family, the church family. Giving is one of those things, which we can do. I wanted John to actually put money on there, but I can see that he is afraid that he will come back and it will be gone. No. (laughter). I am serious. Obviously, finances in a very real way. They are kind of a quiz, You know, you love your children, you want to feed them, you want to take care of them. It is hard to say, "I love my children", but let them starve. Another thing John will do for example as he hands his watch here. We look over here at the sacrifice by the high priest. How do we as fathers sacrifice. We give not only of our income to our families, but we give of our time. Not only to our family, which is our immediate family, but to the family of God. We give time, Why? Because that is a sacrifice. In other words, it shows the heart of a person when you see the level of sacrifice. You can see the heart of a person when you see his willingness or her willingness to sacrifice. People who do not sacrifice for others are selfish. Those who sacrifice and give unto others are generous and Christ wants us to be like Him,

The next thing after this, we have seen here of course and you will see in a literal way is when John is picking up the Bible here, it is to remind you that as Mike is the priest, as he is washing his hands, the Bible says to be washed in the Word. Wash in the Word of God. Daily gentlemen, I want to challenge you as the overseers of your home. Those who should be ministers and priests in your home. Do you study God's Word daily so that you can correctly make decisions on what happens in your home because the answers, folks, are in the Bible. So, as John as a contemporary here. This is a challenge. Are we doing literally, what the high priest did every single day? The next thing we saw the high priest

do over the last several weeks that I want you now to connect as you look at John, this is real for you and me, It is a contemporary issue. It is not just old fashioned. He went to the altar and got the fire from the altar. Do you remember where the fire from the altar came from? It came from above- It came from heaven. Say that, ‘The fire was from heaven.’
“The fire was from heaven-” (audience repeats).

Ladies and gentleman, your home cannot just be directed with good moral teaching. It has to be directed by God-inspired teaching, which is moral. The fire has to come from above if you want your children to be on fire for Christ. Lukewarm water does not start fires, but fires do start fire. So, the fire was taken from there and it was brought to the altar of incense, Now, we have looked at this priest as he is praying, but as John kneels, I want to encourage use again, heads of homes, do we daily, like the priest, as John is kneeling, do we daily have prayer before God? Do we go before the Lord for our children and for our wives and for own families? Do we ask God for guidance? Because see that is what the high priest was teaching here for you and me as contemporary Americans. He was teaching this ought to be a position you and I are in every single day. Not once a year or once a month, but every single day. We ought to be striking this position at least once a day and that is the position of prayer. So, the challenge today is do we pray unceasingly for our families as the heads of the home and the next thing that you will see is as they go over here to the table of showbread. There are these instruments which are at the table of showbread where he literally places frankincense upon the bread because the bread is the bread of life. As you see, John is right here symbolically taking notes. Now, in the Old Testament, we see the priest over there getting the bread, which represented the bread of life. As he puts that frankincense, it shows that it is anointed and if he picked up those

crackers as you might call them, they are without leaven, they are pierced and they represent Jesus Christ. John is taking notes here, you know why? Just like the priest that deals with the bread, the bread of life, so we should be students of God's Word. You know what I love is when I am preaching or teaching on Sunday morning, I see you actually taking notes. You are actually filling in the blanks. That is a joy to me. You know why? Because what you are doing is, you are getting the bread. You are cooking the bread and you are getting it ready to hopefully do something else with it than just ingest it, which is our next point.

We should go from studying God's Word like you see John scribbling out his points here. We should go from studying God's Word to the place where we become with Christ, the lights of the world by his guidance. There are seven candlesticks here, actually lampstands. Seven represents what? Completion. Say with me, "Seven is complete." Let's say it together, "Seven is complete." To the Jew, seven meant completion. What this is light. Well folks when you get God's Word and you study God's Word you have to do something with it. So as John now symbolizes this priest is more than just a priest we look at in history. We should follow his example and begin to shed the light. You see John, as he is passing out these tracts, that is one way that you can shed the light. You give Jesus Christ to the world. Now, John is a dad, Many of you are dads. Your job is not only to give the light to the world but it is critical that you give the light to your family I am a pastor and I have seen a whole lot of people give the light to the world that are pastors but they forget. to put the light in their own homes. I have seen pastors who have lost their wives and their children. They are so busy doing the things of the Lord out there that they forget to do the things of the Lord in here- Dads, let me encourage you, are you

shining light in your home so that when you do so, you see your children altered and have a desire to be like Christ and not be like the world. So that was a symbol that John did and the very last place, of course, once a year when the high priest came here, he came to the place of atonement and it seemed as if this place of atonement, ladies and gentleman, for you and me, that is the place where he was thankful that sin had been covered, Today, gentlemen, if God has forgiven you of your sins and all of us men, all of us women, all of us young people, we all have tons of sin that needed forgiving. We should live with an attitude of gratitude. So, John has passed from the hall because he is going out to tell the good news, God has been good to me. So, the priest every year by seeing the blood on the seat said, "All, one more year, safe, safe, safe, in the hands of God," Amen,

Thank you guys. I appreciate you guys coming up and doing that. (applause).

Mike is so faithful and thank you, John, too. Mike is so faithful putting that on Sunday's so that we can see this priest, but gentlemen, I speak to you all today. I think that biblical manhood is something that we have to realize is needed today in America. it is something, which I think many times as Christians; we listen to the world on how we are supposed to do things and what is the way to raise our families. We listen to all the liberal, clinical psychologists, and everything else. It is time, as men who oversee the home, not as dictators, but as ministers. It is time that we became biblical men again. Men of excellence, men of integrity, men of leadership. So, today, hopefully as we look at the study, we will be able to become that kind of man in the home. If you are a single mom, see the reflection of what you should do here as one who needs to at this point oversee the home until perhaps you get married and if you are a single person, let me just tell you something, if you are a single person, this is a good study because if you are

planning on getting married, it helps you to pick the right kind of man, girls. Men, it shows you what kind of man you ought to be because if you become the man you ought to be as the priest of the home personality, you will pick the right girl. Let me just tell you, just because the girl is a Christian that does not mean that she is ugly. Now, I am going to tell you something. I went to Bible college. I am going to tell you something really frank There is something in a lot of guys minds is if the girl is a Christian, she is homely but if she is gorgeous, she is not going to be a Christian. I remember when I was at Philadelphia College of Bible and a guy set me up on a blind date and this was like pretty much understood because even Christian guys in the college are not above saying, "Yeah, she's a fox, man." They say things like that, I mean they said things like that Just don't forget that I really did not know the Lord until I was 29. So any way, he sets me up on this blind date with this girl from the bible college and I said, "Well tell me what is she like," He said, "Oh, what she is like" And he and his girlfriend together when they were talking to me. "Well, she is so sweet."

I'm like, "Okay, what is she like"

They finally said, "Oh, you know, but she is really godly."

I thought, "Oh, she is ugly isn't she-" I knew it I mean because they would not deal with anything about her physically. She turned out to be a beautiful girl and as sweet as could be. They had the right paradigm on what I should have been looking for in a girl. Not only that but there are a lot of beautiful single women here and a lot of handsome single men. I just have to tell you- it's one of those things that you say, "I wonder if 'this sermon is for me because I am not married. I'm not the head of a household.'" You may

one day be- So, learn it now before you make all of the mistakes. Amen, folks, those of us who have made those mistakes. So, let's learn them now.

You know we many times as men, we joke, we tease, we often feel that we are kind of the rulers of the world and there is that natural instinct within us. You know, it is why men tease and tell jokes about other people. If you are from the University of Texas, you tease about Aggies. If you are from the University of Maryland, whatever you tease about other people. If you are a brunette, you will tease about blondes. Right ladies, you will even tease about blondes and those of you who are blondes, you hate the blonde jokes. So, 'want to tell you a real quick story. So, if you area blonde, think of brunettes, If you are a brunette,, think of redheads or whatever if you are a guy.

It is about a woman who is with these guys and she is talking. She says, "You know what, I am sick and tired of you all telling me that I am not very smart because Jam a blonde/brunette/redhead whichever you are not sitting here today."

So, she says that and they say, "Oh, come on."

"Test me on anything. I'll show you how smart I am. In fact, name a state and I'll tell you what the capital is."

They say okay, "Virginia."

She says, "V". (Laughter)

So, no I'm just teasing. Anyway, the reason I tell that is that we do, as human beings have the tendency to notice what we think is a flaw in somebody who is different than us.

Today, I want to challenge us men. We need to come to a place to be excellent priests of the home. The first thing we need to do is be humble. I'm going to tell you, when you look at the priest in the Old Testament, we don't have time to go into it, but the priests

had to be humble before God. That is why Jesus was so furious with the Phansees and Sadducees. You know why? Because the Pharisoes and Sadducees were arrogant. They had lost the humility of the priesthood to be servants of the people. Dads, you and I have been called to be servants of our families. Oversee them, yet servants of them- if we began to understand that balance and it all comes down to balance, we will be much, much more powerful dads, fathers, and husbands.

Let's read Hebrews 8, in fact we can just read all of these verses straight through so that we can understand what is going on here,

“We have such a high priest who is set on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the heavens. A minister of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle. Behold, the bridegroom comes, go you out to meet him and they shall keep the charge and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation to do the service of the tabernacle.

Now, you say that was a whole lot of words, but I want you to quickly take a pen and underline the word “high priest” if you will. Then, at the end of the line, underline the words “right hand”. Then, if you will in the second line, underline the word “minister” and then a couple of lines down, the word “bridegroom” and on the next line, the word “charge” or responsibility.

Now folks, what I am showing you is a very interesting thing. Jesus Christ who is our Lord has many characteristics that He reveals to us. One is that He is the bridegroom of the church and He is the kind of bridegroom who takes good care of His bride who is the church. He is also the high priest. We are going to find out today what it means to be the priest of your home. When it says that He is on the right hand that means that He is

submitted to the authority of His father, but He does have authority Himself The word “the charge” means that He is willing to accept responsibility. We live in a day and age where you see statistics rising on fathers who abandon their children Fathers who walk away from the home- Fathers who don’t take responsibility for the home and ladies and gentlemen, I’m going to tell you whether some people think that is culturally normal, it is not biblically normal, nor is it God’s design. God has a design for a husband and one who fathers children to be the father of those children. Reproducing children is not fatherhood. Ministering and living sacrificially as the priest of your family, that is fatherhood.

Today, as we look at this study, it is going to be a challenging study, but men, I think it is one of those things that we need to as born again believers be honest with God and say have we allowed our culture to give us a thousand excuses not to be the man that God wanted us to be? Are we just the men of the world or are we biblical men and we need to understand biblical manhood today. Women, let me encourage you in something. As you hear some of these points also think along the lines of how you can bless this man to be a biblical man in the home- And if you’re a single mom, think of a lot of these points because you act as overseer of your home, how these can apply to your and as I said, even singles, how can this apply to your future. How can you apply this?

So, the first thing I want to encourage men is join with other, fill this blank in. Join with other godly men. I’m going to tell you, you are influenced by those you hang around.

When I first became a born again believer. I came out of the nightclub business. I came out of a worldly environment. I had a factory and all, kinds of ad agencies and things and the people I hung around with were definitely what you would underline and fill the blank in as godly by any stretch of the imagination, but I began to fellowship with some

born again believers who were radical for Christ and had also been influenced by Keith Green and some other men that were powerful ministers and I stayed radical for Jesus. You know why, because I stayed around people on fire. You want to be on fire? You want to catch on fire? You want to stay on fire? Hang around people on fire. You want to get lukewarm, hang around people that are warm? You can go ahead and you can stick something like a piece of metal, which is boiling hot. If you stick it in a freezer, it is going to get cooler and cooler and cooler until it is cold to the touch. You know why? Because its environment is going to affect it. Gentlemen, we have bible studies here for men. Tuesday nights, we have a phenomenal group of men that gather together, God has raised up some men who have given energetically and zealously in the last couple of years who have grown a phenomenally large ministry by the power of God. Get with godly men once a month- They have a breakfast here and they have speakers, outstanding speakers. Get with godly men. Hang around men on fire if you want to be on fire. If you want to be a good dad, you are not going to learn it sitting down at some bar somewhere or strip joints with your buddy after work. That is not where you are going to learn fatherhood and the blessing that is going to come upon your children and family is going to be directly attributable to you. According to I Corinthians 7:14. the Bible teaches that children of believing parents are blessed because their parents are believers. Did you know that? The bottom line is that it also shows that the father is held responsible for what the children do.

We see in the Old Testament where dads, you just can't simply to say, "I guess that is just the way my kids are."

A lot of it has to do with what they found in us as dads. So, today, I encourage you join with other godly men

Now, we are going to find in these next three points. God was really speaking to me. I was sitting there studying and I came across this simple fact. Aaron had three boys.

Those three boys had three families. Really big families- Lots of children. They grew up and they were adults.

What happened is when it came to the tabernacle. You know what, Sam, I forgot to mention to you but if anybody has had the chance to re-cue that tape so that we can see what the tabernacle looks like, I was going to go ahead and show you the tabernacle here and what it looks like and give you an idea. Oh yes, praise the Lord. Awesome

What you see right here in the tabernacle. You see that it is a tent and it has a covering.

You see that there is this courtyard in the front. Of course, over here on the far left side you can see where there is the brazen altar. See that brazen altar. You see that right over there folks and then this laver is up there probably but you cannot see it. Ten, inside that little building where you see the four rungs along the top, five steps, inside that building is what you see right here on this stage. There was a lampstand, There was an altar incense There was a table of shewbread inside that tent and then there was a curtain here.

Of course, the curtain or the covering that you see on the front would have been right across here. Then, you see here in the back another curtain and you can't see it. It is inside that building. Then, there was the small area called the Holy of Holies back here.

Okay, so that gives you a feeling of.. By the way, did, you all know when, it was time to move the tent as they wandered around, as they moved around the world and around the wilderness, do you know how they knew it was time to move the tent. Anybody

remember? The fire would move. In other words, right over this, there was a burning pillar of fire right over that, The Shekinah glory at the back end, which was right over this area here. There was a fire which would come out the back of that building 24 hours a day, a fire, and if they woke up one morning and the fire was not over it but it was headed east, you know what that meant. Giddy up. That's what it meant. It meant, it is time to go and so they would then have to pack this thing up. Well, I'm telling you, there is tons of lumber here, tons of cloth, material that cannot be torn, There on the top of that tent, there are many, many layers of different colors, which by the way are prophetic of the coming of Jesus Christ. We are going to be seeing that. The layers of cloth, there is red, there is black. There are various layers above, on the top of that tabernacle where you see that cloth. They had to pack this up.

Now, if all that happened was that Aaron would yell to the whole crowd of people, "Everybody grab a piece. Let's go"

'What you are going to end up at the end is about five pieces pieces. Have you ever put a toy together or something like that? You end up with extra pieces afterwards because you are not really organized how to do it. Now, if you were in an assembly line though, 'the toy would probably get put together correctly, why? Because everybody knows their job. Your job is to put that sprocket in that widget. Sprocket, widget, sprocket, widget, sprocket, widget. Every single time on that assembly line all day long. It could drive you crazy but it is sprocket, widget. So, what God did was God is a God of order. Would you say that with me? "God is a God of order." Organization is our friend. I say that to my children all the time as I go plowing through their rooms. Organization is our friend. Well, it had to be organized obviously because God wanted every single piece because

don't forget, every' single piece, every tiny piece in the tabernacle, numerically and by the inch was critical to fulfill a prophecy. It was important that in an organized way, this was, taken down. Now, Aaron could not do it all himself Like I said, at Harvest Fellowship, we have 100's of ministers, not just in the children's ministry, but ministering in over 100 ministries in this church. It is not done because the preacher is there every night; I'll guarantee you. No, it is done because the people have ministered to people who have ministered to people who have delegated to people who have trained people. So, what Aaron did, he under the guidance of God split his three sons into three divisions- Now, this is important men as we talk about being the father of our home. He split, and I will tell you that organization in your home, I think responsibilities and everything else. In some homes, you May have the children wash the dishes after the meal, two of the children, two of them set up the table beforehand and mom and dad cook the meal. However, you happen to want to do this is up to you, but I will guarantee you that order can be a wonderful thing. It should not be like a boot camp necessarily, it should be a home of love with order, but it is talking about the order of the home.

I want you to look at Numbers CH 3, We are going to be looking at three groups, #1, #2, and #3. We have the Merarites and #2, Gershonites, and #3 the Kohathites. It would have been easier, Bob, Frank, and Ted, but it is not. It is the Merarites, Gershonites, and Kohathites. I put the word "firs" there because actually Merrari, Gershon, and Kohath were the names of his three Sons, but their families were called Merarites, People call u.s the Spencers because my name is Peter Spencer so that is where you get these names. They had specific jobs.

The first group, the Merarites were responsible for what is called the “Big Picture”. They had to break down all the heavy lumber and, everything that propped this tent up and that propped these walls up. They had to break that down,. It was called the framework. It was cumbersome and heavy. They had to take down all the heavy lead and all the heavy silver weights and the gold that was attached to these pillars. They had to carry those on the journey.

Now, sometimes your children say, “oh how come they get to set the table. It is easier than me. I have to clean the table off.”

Of course, people are not always happy with the various jobs they have but they had the job to carry the heavy lumber and they had a joy in that, especially since there was a possibility that the earth would swallow them up if they did not do it. So, it was one of those things where.., you can’t do that with your family. “Watch the earth, son.” It was one of those things where they had to take responsibility for the Big Picture. Now, dads, what this teaches us is a very simple thing. God wants you as the priest in your home to look at the big picture. How do I want my children to grow up and who do I want them to be. Now that does not mean you have to have a daughter who is a scientist, but the big picture. Do I want my children to grow up to be godly? Do I want them to marry godly people? Yeah. Do I Want them to be orderly in the home and to treat each other with respect? Yes. Do I want my children cursing and swearing each other and screaming at their mother? No. So, there are going to be big picture items that are critical to your home. Now, the big picture item is not just, do I want my kids to have the best of everything. Do I want my kids to live in the biggest bedroom? I don’t think that is part of the big picture. The big picture is the inner person because if your children are trained

properly, whether they are in a big bedroom or in a small bedroom, Whether they ride a new car to work when they are 18 or whether they ride an older car to work, if their inside has been correctly set before God with thanksgiving, those outside things will, not discourage them in life because they are set for life. So, the big picture is how to raise our children.

One of the things that I want to encourage you is that we have to do something if we are going to be the kind of dads that do this correctly, Would you fill in A? We need to take responsibility for the actions of our family. The verse underneath it talks about how Aaron's family had to bear the iniquity of the tabernacle. In other words if things went bad, the buck stops here. If the parts were put together wrong, the buck stopped with Aaron- If his son's did not pick up the right pieces and put them back right, the buck stopped with Aaron. Dads, you know what we need to do is grow up and take some responsibility for the home and quit using everybody's cop out in the world as to why things did not go right. God has made us to be biblical man and to have biblical manhood to learn to take accountability for our actions. That is what part of leadership is. The buck does stop here. Many times, you may have employees at work who are contentious, who are gossiping, who are fault finders, who point fingers at you and talk about you all day. That is part of being the boss. That is part of being the overseer. Not the dictator, but the overseer. The one who is responsible I will tell you there is a place, it is one of the states. There is a state law. I can't remember the state, but I heard on CNN the other day that there is a state, Oregon or one of those, which is looking at passing a law that if a kid wrote graffiti on the wall, the parents have to come and wash it off and pay the fine, if kids go out and get drunk and are caught drunk driving, the parents have

their licenses taken away. If a child goes out and commits any kind of criminal activity that the parents are responsible for that child by way of paying the penalty for the child and going to jail with the child.

Now, how many of you think when that state law is passed that are going to be parents who pay more attention to the little things early in life before it gets to that point. Of course they are, You know why? Because they want to train up children who don't send them to jail.. Now, accountability is one of those things. I'm going to show you dads, many times the way men are made, we are not sensitive to the little things until the little things become trucks that drive over us. So, we need to be honest about that because the way that our brains are configured, we may need to become sensitive to how God wants us to be looking at the issues of being dads.

I think that it comes down to paying attention to the little stuff. How much time do you allot with your children versus sports? How much time do you watch basketball for example? Okay, this is when everybody hates my guts. It's okay. How much time do you allot for basketball games on TV, football games on TV versus time with your children? Just a time element. Analyze that real quickly in your mind. This week, I watch 3 basketball games, 2 football games, and 1 baseball game. It was a total of 7-1/2 to 8 hours. I have a child. Did I spend 7-1/2 to 8 hours with that child? Well you see, your prioritization is going to dictate to your child their value. Because if you put less time into them than into some people on a screen who you don't know, how do you expect that child to grow up and then put time into you whom he does not know?

The other thing I think comes down to relationships that children have. Do you watch the relationships your children have? Maria and I have a policy, if we don't know the parents

well and if we don't know the children well and if we have not talked to our children, Josiah, Gideon, Rachel or Petra several times before they ever go to this child's house about how in love with Christ that child is and if we don't hear a glowing report that the child is radical for Jesus Christ, as far as spending the night at the house... - Now, as far as my daughter reaching out and witnessing to people and sharing with kids at school and everything, she does that radically, but as far as where they spend the night in an environment that is away from our home up to a certain age, we don't let it happen.