

THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVICE

We must always be faithful in our service to God and grateful for the honoured position of being His servant.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ When the Lord delivered Israel from Egypt, it was preceded by the most catastrophic event in Egypt's history: in one night, all the firstborn in Egypt—both man and beast—were killed by the hand of God (Exodus 12:29). This act sealed Israel's deliverance.
- ❖ Even as they were on their way out of Egypt, God was giving Moses detailed instructions regarding the future firstborn of Israel (Ex. 13:1-16). They would all belong to God. The firstborn of every animal would be sacrificed to God, while human babies were to be "redeemed."
- ❖ The act of redeeming the firstborn was to be a constant reminder to Israel of God's deliverance from slavery.
- ❖ God, in fact, chose an entire tribe in Israel to represent the lives of all the firstborn He claimed as His holy property. He set the tribe of Levi apart to substitute for the firstborn sons of Israel (Numbers 3:12).
- ❖ Levi had three sons—Gershon, Kohath and Merari. As Moses assigned duties for the service of the tabernacle, the Kohathites were given the responsibility to carry the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the veil and all the utensils used in the sanctuary (Num. 3:31). They literally carried the symbols of God's presence as they travelled (Num. 4:5, 15).
- ❖ One of Kohath's grandsons was a man named Korah, who had three close friends from the tribe of Rueben: Dathan, Abiram and On.
- ❖ Jacob described his son Rueben as unstable and impetuous, a man of uncontrolled passions. And because of his immorality and gross disrespect toward Jacob, he lost his place of honour as his firstborn (Genesis 49:3-4).
- ❖ As Jacob spoke to his sons in Genesis 49, it can be implied that he was also speaking to their descendants, the 12 tribes of Israel (see v. 28).
- ❖ Thus, Jacob's deathbed speech to Rueben outlines the character and legacy of the men Korah had chosen to ally himself with. We need to be very careful in choosing our friends, allies and confidants!
- ❖ In Numbers 16, we see Korah (and 253 others who had no divine calling or consecration for ministry) seeking to usurp Aaron and his sons' position as priests, even though God Himself had chosen Kohath and his descendants to serve Him, minister to Him and bear the ark on their shoulders (vv. 8-11).
- ❖ We must never forget what an honour and privilege it is to serve God in His sanctuary! In fact, every born-again believer becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19). God *lives* within us! And thus, we are ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 46

- ❖ We need to appreciate where God has placed us and then serve with honour, content to 'stay in our lane'. God is the One who exalts and abases (Ezekiel 21:26; Matthew 23:12). He is the One who makes vessels of honour and dishonour (2 Timothy 2:20). And He is the One who apportions our gifts and callings (Romans 11:29; 1 Cor. 12:11).
- ❖ The end of Korah's story was tragic. After he led the rebellion against Aaron, the "earth opened her mouth and swallowed" Korah and much of his family (Num. 16:25-33). His sons, however, were spared (Num. 26:11; Deut. 24:16), and the story ends much better than it began.
- ❖ When we get to the Book of Psalms, there are two series of psalms written by the "Sons of Korah." They are not attributed to the "Sons of Kohath," even though he was the family leader Moses had commissioned (Numbers 4:4-15). After the disaster that came upon their family through Korah, it seems they wanted everyone to know that they were back on the right track.
- ❖ In effect they were saying: "We may not have come from the best background and some in our family made terrible and deadly mistakes, but God still has His hand upon us, and we are moving forward, by the grace of God."
- ❖ This is a lesson for all of us. No one can say they've done everything right or are in any way worthy to stand before God to worship Him and serve in His house.
- ❖ It is a *privilege* to serve God, and if we maintain a humble spirit and a repentant heart, He will continue to work with us and use us for His glory.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Select at least three of the following scriptures to read:
Psalm 42:1-2, 11; Ps. 43: 5 • Ps. 44:4, 7, 26 • Ps. 45 • Ps. 46:1-3, 10-11 • Ps. 47:1-2, 6-7 • Ps. 48:1-2 • Ps.49 • Ps. 84:1-2, 4, 9-12 • Ps. 85 • Ps. 87 • Ps. 88 •
2. What did the sons of Korah want to tell us about God? What teachings did they wish to convey, and what praise and worship to God did they want to express?
3. What psalm, hymn or spiritual song do you use to praise God? What are you trying to convey?

Prayer Time

Lord, I am humbled by Your presence. I just want to be where You've placed me, doing what You've tasked me to do to further Your Kingdom.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.

CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD

Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What are some of the things you have done or will do that you consider a privilege?