INTRO:

Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 19: You are Chosen and Called

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 19. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a reflection. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

The Lord rescued the nation of Israel so they would worship Him. “*On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt, on that very day, they came to the Desert of Sinai....and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain,*” Exodus 19:2-3. Three months after the Israelites left Egypt in the miraculous Red Sea crossing, God spoke words of covenant and identity to the nation of Israel. In verses 5-6, “*Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation*.” The basic thought is of a group set apart for God’s possession and service with free access to His Presence. The goal of their existence was to be priests and kings before God, establishing His Kingdom on the earth. God offered to make Israel a kingdom of priests but as a nation they refused His offer and what they ended up with was a tribe of priests. God didn’t reject them, He made provision for them. The office of priest is mentioned 700 times in the Old Testament and approximately 80 times in the New Testament.

The Old Testament model is a foreshadowing of what Jesus established with the permanent covenant of priests and kings that are to rule and reign with Him. The words in 1 Peter 2:9 are an echo of the words in Exodus 19:5-6. “*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s treasured possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*”. God is establishing the Kingdom of priests in you and me!

In this devotional, we will examine the four distinctives of the priesthood and how it is connected to us. The priests of the Old Testament had two roles: 1) to minister to the Lord in the Tabernacle and 2) to intercede for the people.

1. **The Calling**. For the Israelites, the calling to the priesthood was to Aaron and his descendants only. “Have Aaron your brother brought to you from among the Israelites, along with his sons Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, so they may serve Me as priests,” Exodus 28:1. The privilege of the priesthood was only given to Aaron and his descendants.

For us, every believer is called to be a priest. We have been chosen and called. This calling is a forever calling because Jesus has a permanent priesthood (Hebrews 7:24).

1. **The Service**. The priests’ number one priority in service was to serve the living God in the Tabernacle, in the inner court of the Tabernacle (we will develop this idea more as we move through the chapters of Exodus). This is to be the top priority in our lives as well. This service or ministry to Jesus is all about relationship. Spending time with Jesus in the inner sanctuary of your heart to know Him, to know what He loves and what He hates, to know who He is, to know how much He loves you and all the people of earth. King David spoke of his intimate relationship with God in Psalm 27:4, “*One thing I ask and this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple”.*

The second priority of service was to minister to the people and to intercede on their behalf before God. The priest was the mediator between God and man. This ministry comes from the place of intimacy with God. One of the best ways to show love for others is to intercede on their behalf. Everyone in your community is a target for God’s love. We are ***Love Agents*** on assignment for the Kingdom of God. When the priests would exit the Tabernacle, a blessing would be spoken over the community. Numbers 6;22-27, “*The Lord said to Moses, Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: ‘The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. So I will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them’.*” This was a pronouncement over the people’s lives. God is marking His people with His Name! Do you know people who need God’s Name marked upon them? Speak this over them, that the Presence of heaven would be upon their lives.

1. **The Inheritance**. The priests of the Old Testament belonged to God. God was their share and their portion. “The Lord said to Aaron, ‘You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites,” Numbers 18:20. Understanding our inheritance begins with discovering the deeper purpose of salvation. We have legal standing to God as His sons and daughters and that gives us our inheritance. Romans 8:17 tells us, “*Now if we are children, then we are heirs~ heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.*..” The fact that we are heirs of God is mind-boggling. Those words prophesy our potential which we must pursue our entire lives. God is our inheritance. He is our portion. He intends to establish His Kingdom on the earth by co-laboring with His children.

Our inheritance begins the moment we receive Jesus and follow Him. We are moved from darkness to light; from enemies to friends; from lost to found; from poor to rich; from slaves to free; from peasant to royalty.

1. **The Security**. Aaron and his descendants were born into the priesthood and so are we! It was a secure position. Exodus 28:43 says, “This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants.” Aaron and his generational line had complete assurance that their position would not be taken away. We too have security in our position as sons and daughters (the permanent priesthood). We are told in Hebrews 7:24 that because Jesus lives forever, His priesthood is permanent. It will not be taken from the believers. In Revelation 5:10 we are shown the scene in heaven and the priesthood is identified. “*You have made them to be a Kingdom of Priests to serve our God and they will reign on the earth”.* The establishment of the priesthood goes on forever and ever.

This promise and privilege of being a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s treasured possession is yours and mine!

**Testimony**: “*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s treasured possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*”. Take 5-10 minutes or more and declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light! The Father has lavished His love upon you. Share about His great love here!!!