

“Oh, praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, you who serve at night in the house of the Lord. Lift your hands toward the sanctuary, and praise the Lord.” Psalms 134:1-2 NLT

lectio // Psalm 134

I am not a priest and I do not come from a line of priests. Although I have served in church ministry for 25 years, and used to see myself as a type of priest, I do not believe that any more. There was a time of priests that served God and were mediators between God and the Israelites. Since Jesus fulfilled that as the perfect mediator, he established ALL believers as priests. The church still yearns for the structure of the priesthood, wanting a mediator out of fear or just laziness. And, senior or staff pastors like to see themselves as priests shadowing those roles from the old covenant, and the church even desires that “priestly” role model so they do not have to be responsible for their decisions. But the truth is there are no “priestly” roles in church leadership and senior/staff pastors are just normal people. There is authority and structure, but it is not to abdicate individual responsibility, just to encourage using the gifts as God distributed them to the whole body. The gifts of leadership and even the authority that comes with it does not mean they have all the answers, are closer to God or people to need to hear from them instead of hearing from God. Jesus flattened the hierarchy and each believer is directly responsible to God and to each other. So, this Psalm is awesome when applied through the lens of the new covenant. “All you servants,” every believer serving at night (*research) - lift your hands toward God and praise him!

*1. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14303-temple-administration-and-service-of>

*2. https://philologos.org/__eb-ttms/temple07.htm

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pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I am passionate about every believer fulfilling the role of “priest,” this idea of serving you and serving others. I think the order you had the first apostles write about and give specific direction to are in the spirit of fulfillment of the law, not instead of the law. I believe Jesus established the church as a model of how to do life together - life that honors you and honors each other. I don’t want to go back to a model that was used to tutor Israel, but was never meant to be permanent. I also believe that people still want those old covenant structures because it allows them to turn to a man instead of turning to you.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root