

1. Today's message is not really a Father's Day message, but it is the message I believe the Lord wants me to share.
2. We've been talking this year about our year of jubilee. The year where God restores in us, to us and for us what he originally intended us to be.
3. Someone called me this week that I have not talked to in several years. This person grew up at BFA, but then moved away because of their job.
4. Out of the blue they reached out to me, and they shared a powerful testimony of restoration in their life.
5. I knew immediately that this call was ordained by God. I still have to figure out how to best utilize their testimony, but immediately I realized this as the Lord's direction, especially when this person said to me, I believe this restoration is a part of my year of jubilee.
6. I assumed they had heard from someone or watched online and knew what I had been preaching, but after questioning them I discovered they had no idea that we have been talking about Jubilee.
7. It was just a confirmation to me that God is still in the process of bringing restoration, not only to us, but to others outside our church as well.
8. So, this morning I want to talk to you about **the restoration of our position in God's kingdom.**
9. I don't know if you know this or not, but you were created by God to hold a position in His kingdom.
10. A position in this sense is the assignment that someone holds.
11. There are many positions that we have been given in the kingdom, but for today we are going to combine two of them, simply because the word of God tells us that we are to hold both of these positions simultaneously.
12. We are going to talk about our position as kings and priests.
13. I beg you to not let doubt rob you of the truth of what I have just said to you.
14. I beg you to not let what someone has said to you or about you to steal the truth of what God says about you.

15. Each and every one of us have been called to be kings and priests.
16. Because those are not common positions for most of us let's dissect what we mean by kings and priests.
17. In the Old Testament, God gave the children of Israel a King to be over them. **The king was God's agent to rule the nation.**
18. Along with the authority that came with that position, there were also great responsibilities.
19. The king was expected to observe God's laws. He couldn't just make them up as he went along.
20. It was the king's responsibility to defend the nation against those who would try to do harm to his people, and if necessary, the king would lead the people in an offensive war to take territory that belonged to them.
21. And the king was required to rule with justice (fairness), and righteousness (according to God's standard of truth).
22. As I said, this is not a Father's Day message, but those sure sound like some of the necessary qualities to be a good husband and father.
23. Any man who will make it his goal to carry out those responsibilities for his family will very seldom lack the respect and esteem he longs for.
24. Then there was the position of Priest. Where the position of king was meant to rule, **the position of priest was meant to connect.**
25. The main responsibility of the priest was to be a mediator between God and humans.
26. A mediator is someone who attempts to help two parties who are involved in conflict to come to an agreement.
27. In the case of the priest, the conflict is between mankind and God. Our sin puts us in opposition to the goodness of God, but through the blood of Jesus Christ who died for our sins, there has been made a way for us to be reconciled back to God.
28. And so, the main role of the priest was to help humans return to right relationship with God.
29. How many are still with me?
30. All throughout the Old Testament these two roles or positions were separate. Then along comes Jesus in the New Testament. And when

Jesus began his earthly ministry, he took on the role or position of not only king, but also as priest.

31. Now, there is a third aspect of Jesus position and that is the position of prophet, but we will save that discussion for another time.

32. Jesus was King. **John 18:36** Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

33. Jesus is Priest. I read this last week but it illustrates the point so I will read it again. **Hebrews 4:14-15** Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

34. So, when Jesus came to earth, he combined the office or position of king and priest into one role. And he carried out that position with perfection.

35. So, what does that have to do with us pastor? It has to do with us because when Jesus left this world to go back to the father, he transferred that position as kings and priests to us.

36. He gave everyone who believes in his name and his work on the cross the position of priest/king. **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

37. That one verse of scripture does such a great job of defining who we are in Jesus Christ. Who are we in Jesus Christ?

- A chosen people.
- A royal priesthood.
- A holy (dedicated or consecrated to God) nation.
- God's special possession.

38. It's there in black and white. It is as plain as the nose on our face. And yet almost all of us at one time or another have the tendency to forget our position in Christ.

39. Almost all of us have the tendency to lose sight of who we really are in Jesus Christ and what that means.

40. When we lose sight of our position in Christ, it most often leads to defeat.

41. When we lose sight of our position in Christ, we tend to see ourselves as...

- A forgotten person rather than a chosen person.
 - A nobody rather than a king or priest.
 - A wandering person rather than a person who has been set apart.
 - An ordinary reject rather than a special possession.
42. But that is not who we are. And when we allow the Holy Spirit to restore our spiritual vision, it leads to victory.
43. Listen to this message or restoration in **1 Peter 2:10** *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*
44. You were not, but now you are. And that is the meat of today's message.
45. You may have lost sight of who you are in Christ. But I am here to remind you of your position. I'm here to remind you of who God has called you to be.
46. So, the first thing the Lord is asking you to do is believe that you are who God says you are.
47. (Lead people in repeating: **I am who God says I am.**)
48. The second thing the Lord desires to do is to instill in you the qualities of the priest/king he has called you to be.
49. We get a glimpse of those qualities in the book of John chapter 17.
50. Thankfully, we are not left to wonder how it is that a kingly priest lives. Jesus modeled perfectly this kingly, priestly position.
51. Before we dissect these qualities, I want to make it clear that the purpose of looking at these qualities is not so we will see them and be discouraged because we don't measure up.
52. None of us are perfect, and this side of heaven we won't fully measure up. The point is to see these qualities and make them a matter of prayer and a goal to strive for.
53. To allow the Holy Spirit to change us and empower us to be more like Jesus.
54. In John chapter 17, Jesus is praying to the father.
55. The caption of this passage reads "The High Priestly Prayer".
56. Jesus is in affect giving God a play by play of how he has lived his life here on earth. But with all Jesus' prayers, it was as much for those who heard the prayer as it was for God the father.
57. So, what are the characteristics of a priestly king?

Uses authority to point others to Jesus.

1. As kings and priests, we have been given authority. But that authority is never to be used to point people to us, it is to be used to point people to Jesus.
2. **John 17:2-3** For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. **3** Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
3. The purpose for our authority in Jesus Christ is so that others will receive eternal life.
4. John the Baptist was a great example of this quality. He used his authority to point people to Jesus. His prayer was, He must increase, but I must decrease.
5. A person who has authority but uses that authority to build themselves up will do damage.
6. But a person who has authority and uses that authority to bridge the gap and help people get to Jesus will bring life.
7. Another priestly king characteristic is to...

Bring God glory by finishing the work.

1. **John 17:4** I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.
2. How many understand that there is a huge difference between starting and finishing.
3. For sure, finishing is not possible without starting, but starting is not the goal. Finishing is the goal.
4. Jesus gives an account to the father, and the thing he highlights is not that he started, but rather that he finished.
5. Thank the lord that we have started the race.
6. Thank the Lord that we started on this journey toward spiritual maturity and being more like Jesus.
7. But as best I can tell from the bible, God is not going to give us a crown of life in heaven because we started the race.
8. Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy chapter 4 that the crown goes to those who finish the race.

9. Kingly priests don't celebrate starting so much as celebrating finishing what they started.
10. Another characteristic of kingly priests is that...

The way they live points to God.

1. John 17:6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word."
2. The way Jesus lived proved that God was real.
3. The way Jesus lived left no doubt that God is who he says he is.
4. That is our mandate as well. Matthew 5:16 let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
5. I hate to say this, but if the world doesn't know or believe there is a God, it's not the world's fault. It's our fault.
6. Kingly priests live in such a way that the lost can't deny the existence of the God they serve.
7. Another characteristic of kingly priests is that...

They live like everything is Gods.

1. John 17:7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.
2. This aspect of Jesus' life on earth still blows my mind.
3. Jesus was God. In heaven, everything was at his disposal. In heaven he was at the right hand of God and as a result he had a hand in everything that God did.
4. But Jesus came to earth, and he willingly lived only on what God the father gave him.
5. He refused to overstep God's plan.
6. In the garden he could have said no to the cross. Instead, he trusted God.
7. On the cross he could have called the angels to rescue him, but he didn't. he trusted God.
8. Jesus humbled himself. But if we're not careful, we can do the opposite.
9. The truth is we have nothing, but in pride we act like we have it all.
10. Kings and priests live like God has it all.
11. Kings and priests also...

Watch their mouth.

1. **John 17:8** For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.
2. Jesus could have said anything he wanted, but instead he surrendered his mouth to say only what God wanted him to say.
3. Anybody besides me ever wish you actually did have a zipper on your mouth? I sure do.
4. My mouth has gotten me in more trouble than I care to admit.
5. And there's a reason for that. **James 3:7-10** All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.
6. What we say matters. What we allow to come out of our mouth matters.
7. In fact, it matters so much that Jesus said in Matthew chapter 12 that on judgment day, we will have to give account of every idle word we have spoken.
8. Does that scare anybody besides me?
9. Kings and priests watch what they say.
10. And finally, kings and priests...

Lead by example.

1. **John 17:19** For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.
2. When Jesus says I sanctify myself, he was not talking about keeping himself from sin.
3. For sure we should cooperate with the Holy Spirit to avoid sin.
4. But Jesus didn't sin. So, this wasn't a reference to sin.
5. Instead, he is saying, I set myself apart to God for a purpose.
6. Jesus is saying, I have lived my life by the purpose you have given me, so that they will live life by the purpose you have for them.
7. What Jesus was doing was establishing the principle that God has a purpose for all of us.
8. Your life has a purpose. God has a purpose for your life. You may not fully know what that is, but make no mistake, He has made you for a purpose.

9. And part of this restoration of position as a king and priest is to seek the Lord's purpose for our life.

Conclusion:

1. It is amazing to me how easy it is to become consumed by what we think everyone else should be doing, rather than focusing on what we should be doing.
2. Have you ever been in a meeting, and someone says, well somebody needs to do this? Or somebody needs to do that?
3. What they are really saying is, you need to do this because I'm sure not going to.
4. But Jesus said, I have lived my life for God's purpose so that others would do the same. I have led by example.
5. And at the end of the day, that is a perfect way to wrap up this calling as kings and priests.
6. Kings and priests don't avoid responsibility, kings and priests take responsibility.
7. Kings and priests aren't waiting for someone else to set the direction for their life, they are looking to the Lord for that direction.
8. Never has it been easier to compare ourselves to and keep our attention focused on what others are doing.
9. I'm not anti-social media. Not in the least. Because as human beings we have always wondered where we fit in relationship to others in the world.
10. We have always had the tendency to look at others and judge ourselves. To see how we measure up.
11. It just seems it is easier to do than ever. You probably have hundreds if not thousands of people who are only showing you the "got it all together" version of themselves.
12. But what I'm asking you to do is lay aside what others are doing, or what they look like, or how they seem, and ask the Lord to show you the truth about you.
13. To ask him how you fit into His plan for your life as a king and priest.

14. Go to God and keep going to God until you get an answer to this question. **Who have you created me to be?**
15. Ask people to lay down social media until they get an answer.
16. Find a place to pray.