



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Priesthood of all Believers	SPEAKER	SP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Redigging the Brethren Well	DATE	15 & 16 April 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

SP Chua Seng Lee kicks off the first sermon of the *Redigging the Brethren Well* series by exhorting Christians to be true to the calling of the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9-10) through proclaiming the excellencies of God, praying for people, doing good works and sharing the gospel.

PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

In the Old Testament, priests functioned as mediators between God and Man. Christians can now go to God directly because Jesus is our Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). As Christians, we should exercise our priestly function by praying for people in need, praying for one another and serving our community (James 5:14, Hebrews 13:18).

Three reasons why Christians are called to be a royal priesthood:

1) God's Possession – You are Wanted

We are a people for God's own possession (1 Peter 2:9). From both the Old Testament (Exodus 19:5) and New Testament (Revelation 1:6), God constantly shows that He wants us to be His. Some of us may be familiar with rejection (e.g. from parents, friends, schools or workplaces etc). However, God chose us out of the fallen world. He wants to heal our hearts from all rejection. Our security and identity are found in God who chose us. Like John the disciple whom Jesus loved, we can have confidence in God's truth that He loves us.

2) Proclaim His Excellencies – You are Called

We are called to proclaim God's glory and excellencies (1 Peter 2:9-10). Priests offer sacrifices to God. Today we no longer sacrifice animals like in the Old Testament but instead:

- (i) Bring sacrifices of praise to God (Hebrews 13:15)
We need to be intentional and focused, proclaiming God's Word to our souls. We should not just use our lips but our hearts and minds to praise God. As our brains can process more than what we hear, it may be easy to get distracted. SP shared an example of how it helps him to focus when he puts his hand over his heart while singing praises to God.

(ii) Bring sacrifices of good works and share the gospel (Hebrews 13:16)

SP gave multiple examples of doing good works and sharing the gospel through the pioneers of BBTC more than 36 years ago and the new ministries in BBTC created over the past 10 years. These showed BBTCians who were true to God's calling for them as the priesthood of believers. Many ministries started from the bottom-up approach; when God gave these BBTCians a burden, they rose up and sacrificed their free time and resources to fulfil God's call, proclaiming the excellencies of God to the world.

3) God's People – You are Blessed

We are blessed to be the people of God (1 Peter 2:10). We are all sinners and were originally doomed for hell. In His grace and mercy, God saved us from death, punishment and hell by sending Jesus to die for us on the cross so that we can now live as His children. We are blessed by God and as a result, we can be a blessing to others. When we truly understand our blessedness in being saved and receiving God's mercy, we will want to fulfil our calling as priests by making Him known.

SP shared how Mercedes and Volvo opened up their respective car safety patents to their competitors even though it would affect Mercedes' and Volvo's own competitive edge. When Mercedes was asked about this decision, the spokesman said that some things are too important not to share.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is too important not to share. We have been freely blessed by God, and after tasting the mercy of God, we should also freely share with others the good news of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

BBTC's vision is to be an Intentional Disciple-Making Church of effective priests and kings. SP exhorted us to encourage one another to rise up to our calling and do good works to proclaim the excellencies of God as His priests. God has deeply blessed us, and our best response is to bless others.

QUESTIONS

1. We are God's own possession and He wants us to know this. Share an experience of how God drew close to you or healed a rejection which you faced.

2. SP said that our "being" (i.e. being a royal priesthood) and "doing" (i.e. doing the works of priests of God) are inter-related. Reflect on and share about an instance whereby the Holy Spirit gave you a burden for someone or something. What did you learn from this?

3. What is BBTC's vision? What steps can you take to grow in our calling to be God's royal priesthood?