

Feb 26, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Barry Hosford

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

We honor God's name when we call Him our Father and live like His children

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, when we are honest with You, we understand how often we fall far short of honorable behavior. We know how much we need You. By Your Spirit, help us replace any selfish thoughts, words, and actions with things that please You and draw others to You

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

(1 Pet 2:9 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 26, 2016)

New Series: Jesus Calls Us

**UNIT 1: Called from the
Margins of Society**

NEXT WEEK

**The Prodigal Son
(Luke 15:11-24)**

Results of the Call 1 Peter 2:1-10

Lesson Background and Introduction

Why does God want us to be holy? It is because we are a "chosen generation." We are a "royal priesthood, an holy nation." If you are a Christian, God has chosen you. He did not choose you because you were smarter, kinder, or more giving. He chose you because He is God. There is also no "last" with God. His choice has nothing to do with who we are. We need to keep in mind the truth of Romans 5:8: "God commendeth (demonstrates) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." We did nothing to merit salvation because we were completely without merit when God chose us. We are also a "royal priesthood." This combines two ideas: royalty and intercession. We are priests on our own because God has given us access at any time (Heb. 4:16). It is royal because we are serving the King of kings. We are a "holy nation." "Holy" has the idea of separation. It is interesting that separation is something that goes all the way back to the Creation. God separated the light from the darkness (Gen. 1:4) and the "waters from the waters" (vs. 6). God has separated His people from the world. He expects us to stay that way. But it is important that we are not separated just for the sake of being separated. We are separated to God. He is the one we are to stay close to. Peter went on to say that we are a "peculiar people." That is often joked about, but the joke is usually based on a misunderstanding of what this means. "Peculiar" means that we are a possession. We are God's very own. That is amazing in itself. God owns us because He created us, but He also owns us because He has redeemed us by the sacrifice of Christ. We are doubly His. Now we see what the point of all this is. It is to "show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." God has blessed us with all these wonderful blessings for one specific purpose: to bring Him praise. Sometimes people (even Christians) wonder what the deal is with God always wanting praise. Some even think He is on an ego trip. That would be true of a human but not of God. There is no one greater. He does deserve praise and glory. Satan tries to convince people that God is full of Himself, but that is not true. He is full of glory, holiness, and goodness. There is nothing vain about Him. He deserves our praise. He has brought us out of darkness into His wonderful light! Praise be to His name!

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

The question of identity is at the center of today's text. In the face of persecution and suffering, the believers to whom Peter wrote seemed to have had their doubts. In our contemporary world, the issue of our identity as Christians is just as important. Our world bombards us with endless identity options. These options in and of themselves range from the harmless to the sinful. But what all of these have in common is that they must give way before our allegiance to King Jesus. Christians serve that king as members of royalty. Do we act like royalty in the best sense of the word? Do we treat fellow Christians as if they are princes and princesses alongside us? Most of all, do we honor King Jesus in all we do as his obedient servants? May we honor that role in the year 2023 and beyond as we work toward the unity of believers as the holy, royal nation of King Jesus.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Results of Obedience to God's Word (1 Peter 2:1-3)

Obedient to God's Word by the removal of sin (1)

- The removal of sin by putting aside deeds of darkness (Rom 13:12)
- The removal of sin by putting to death the earthly nature (Col 3:5-6)
- The removal of sin by throwing off everything that hinders (Heb 12:1)
- The removal of sin by getting rid of all moral filth (James 1:21)

Obedient to God's Word by the ingestion of Word (2-3)

- The ingestion of Word by being good soil for it to grow in (Matt 13:23)
- The ingestion of Word by examining it daily (Acts 17:11)
- The ingestion of Word by accepting it as the actual Word of God (1 Thess 2:13)
- The ingestion of Word by eating of the bread of life (John 6:48-51)

Results of a Spiritual House being Built (1 Peter 2:4-6)

Built with a foundation of Jesus (4-5)

- A foundation of Jesus that no one can better (1 Cor 3:11)
- A foundation of Jesus that is a cornerstone (Isa 28:16)
- A foundation of Jesus in whose name everyone can be saved (Acts 4:11-12)
- A foundation of Jesus in a building and household of believers (Eph 2:19-22)
- A foundation of Jesus that is like a solid rock (Matt 7:24)

Built with a spiritual priest offering spiritual sacrifices (5-6)

- Spiritual priest who services God and makes atonement for His people (Heb 2:17)
- Spiritual priest who sympathizes with His people's weaknesses (Heb 4:14-15)
- Spiritual priest who serves in the sanctuary built and set up by God (Heb 8:1-2)
- Spiritual priest who once for all provided the ultimate sacrifice for sin (Heb 9:24-28)
- Spiritual priest who must be worshipped in spirit and in truth (John 4:24)

Results of Accepting the Cornerstone - Jesus (1 Peter 2:7-8)

Confirmation of the Cornerstone (7)

- Confirmation through God making Jesus the capstone (Ps 118:22-23)
- Confirmation from the apostles recognizing Jesus as having the words of eternal life (John 6:67-69)
- Confirmation by the Gentiles who found righteousness through the stone of Zion (Rom 9:30-33)
- Confirmation by Jesus having all the fullness of the Deity and being the head stone over every power and authority (Col 2:9-10)

Power of the Cornerstone (8)

- Power that was given by God to Jesus (John 13:3)
- Power as the Son of God (Rom 1:2-4)
- Power that spans not only this age but also the next (Eph 1:19-21)
- Power of an indestructible life (Heb 7:15-16)

Results of People Being a Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9-10)

A Royal Priesthood who are holy because of belonging to God (9)

- Belonging to God through a calling (Rom 1:6)
- Belonging to God because we have been bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- Belonging to God because we have been redeemed as God's possessions (Eph 1:13-14)
- Belonging to God because God has chosen us (John 15:18-19)

A Royal Priesthood who are being changed from alienated and guilty to a family and forgiven (10)

- Family and forgiven because of finding mercy and grace (Heb 4:16)
- Family and forgiven because of the blood of the covenant (Matt 26:28)
- Family and forgiven through the prophet of the Most High (Luke 1:76-77)
- Family and forgiven because of belief in Jesus (Acts 10:43)
- Family and forgiven through the redemption by Jesus (Eph 1:7)