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The Example Of The Levites

As God portioned the land of Canaan to the children of Israel, there was no provision for the Levite to own or inherit land as the other tribes had. ***“Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.”*** (Deut 10.9). We may think that to be a dismal thing to have happen to an individual or to a tribe. To be left out of the material wealth that was being given to others. There was a purpose in this as God indicates over time in the giving of other instructions to the Hebrews. God reminded the Hebrews that they should not neglect to care for the Levites and provide for them. As Moses states, ***“And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.”*** (Deut 14.27). The Levites were charged with the service of the Tabernacle, to minister before God continually. The Levites and their families were also charged with the preparation of the unleavened bread and the movement of the items inside the Tabernacle, as well as the Tabernacle itself. These were not just great obligations they were great blessings and privileges. While the Levites may have wanted to be like everyone else, and enjoy certain things that they did not have, others may well have wished to have the blessing of serving God in the Tabernacle and being part of that ministry.

In a similar sense those who become Christians take upon themselves a similar role. Paul tells us that as Christians we should work to make Heaven our priority and to disregard the material world. ***“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”*** (Col 3.1-3). Like the Levites, Christian have no permanent ownership or stake in this world. In this sense God will bless and provide for us as He sees fit, just as he did with the Levites of old.

The Levites understood their service to God in the Tabernacle and out. They were then scattered throughout the land to dwell among the people so that the influence of those directly connected to the Law, and therefore God, would be held as a reminder that the people needed to focus on God and His commands. In the world in which we live, Christians are to be an example of how God wants us to live. In this sense we have the word of God entrusted to us and are the ministers of that word. This is a privilege, a sacred duty and a trust that we must live up to so that we are acceptable. Paul speaking of the word, states, ***“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*** (2 cor 4.7). As those who keep and teach the law of God we must make sure that we are fit for that service. The Levites could not serve if they were afflicted with illness, blemishes or disease. In the same sense a Christian must be right in God’s sight by being faithful. We read, ***“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*** (1 Cor 4.2). In this sense we must cleanse ourselves, through faithfulness, repentance if need be and prayer, coupled with the desire to serve and be acceptable to God. We may at times feel as though we are losing out on the good things that are around us, but God has provided for us if we do not grow weary. As Christ tells us, “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

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