BUILDING BLOCKS

Part 4

On Wednesdays this month we're looking at worship **"then and now."** **Hebrews 12:28** issues a clear call…

> …and thus **let us** offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe…

…but **how** should *we* answer that call? There's a big difference between worship **"then"** and **"now."**

Throughout the Old Testament, we read about God's people being led and served by **priests**, starting with Aaron and his sons (Exo 28:1). Beyond this family, an entire tribe of Israel, the tribe of Levi, was chosen by God to serve as ministers and guards of this work (Num 3:5-7).

At the head of the priesthood was the high priest (Heb 5:1-4). What would he do?

> …act on _____ of men in relation to God, to _____ gifts and sacrifices for sins. (Heb 5:1)

When he served, he would wear "_____ garments" (Exo 28:2).

But there had to be many, many priests over the centuries "because they were prevented by _____ from continuing in office" (Heb 7:23). Until… let's read about the greatest high priest of all in **Hebrews 7:22-28**.

Does that mean there are no priests today? No.

> But you are a chosen race, a royal _____, a holy nation, a people for his own possession… (1 Pet 2:9)

Through Jesus, we are called to "continually offer up a sacrifice of _____ to God" (Heb 13:15).

For Class & Family Discussion:

‣ Priest (*kohen* in Hebrew) means "one who officiates." In your own words, what did God want and the people need these men to do?

‣ In what ways was even the high priest "beset with weakness" (Heb 5:2)?

‣ In contrast to "the former priests" who were "many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office," Jesus is said to hold his priesthood "permanently, because he continues forever" (Heb 7:23-24). What does this mean and why is it *really* good news?

‣ What do we need to understand from 1 Peter 2:9?

‣ Do we wait around for someone else to bring sacrifices to us? If not, where do the sacrifices we offer come from? What sort of sacrifices are they? Revisiting Hebrews 13:15-16 might be helpful here…