

# Lenten Devotional 2020

Monday, March 30, 2020  
Day 29, Exodus 29

## **Ordained for Service**

*Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the tent of meeting and wash them with water. (Exodus 29:4)*

On November 6, 2016 I was ordained as a Minister into the Free Methodist Church in Canada. It was a very important event to me. In some ways, it was the culmination of a journey that began in 1995. In other ways, it summarized a journey from my childhood. Either way, it is an event that will remain in my mind for the rest of my life.

But, what does it mean to be ordained? It means to put someone aside for holy orders. In my case I was ordained to serve as a Minister with a particular denomination. More than that, I took vows to administer the Word and Sacraments. This means that I have a particular ordination that not everyone has. However, every Christian has been ordained.

As part of the ritual that would prepare them to minister as priests in the temple, Aaron and his sons had to be washed with water. Now, often when we think about priests under the new covenant, we tend to think of Jesus—rightly so! However, we shouldn't miss that Jesus prepared his own disciples for the priesthood of all believers. This coming Sunday we enter into holy week with Palm Sunday. Then on Maundy Thursday we recall Jesus washing his disciples feet in John 13:1–17. This, in my opinion, is Jesus ordaining his disciples for their mission. Further, in Acts 2:1–13 these same disciples are anointed (baptized) with the Holy Spirit. I believe this is parallel to Exodus 29:8.

These rituals of baptism and Spirit anointing are still the means of entry into the Christian life. We enter Christ through the waters of baptism and by that entry we receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This means that every Christian has been ordained as a priest under Christ. Unlike the Hebrew priests, we do not offer animals. Rather, we offer Christ who is both high priest and sacrifice. This is the nature of who we are as members of the body of Christ.

We do not have particular costume, nor is there altars and instruments, but ours is higher and holier, because we extend Christ. It is a responsibility to be taken on with gravity and intention.

## **Prayer**

Lord you have hidden your treasure in clay jars. Thank you for this high calling that you have placed on us. Help us to remember who it is we are offering. And, we pray that our work would be an pleasing aroma to you. Amen.