Prophet, Priest, King (Ordination of Don Parsons, Kingfisher, Okla. 6/5/66)

Mt. 11:7-19

Intro. A. a church most clearly reflects herself, her values, her understanding of purpose of God when looks at ministry.
Most commonly at ordination, at call of minister.

B. Of course, differ over expectations.
1. as in Corinthian church.
2. or in day of Jno. and Jesus.
Some didn't like either. children at play.

C. Most of us aware a mystery here. Out from us; called by us; ordained by us; yet depth of motivation, strength of loyalty, beyond us.

D. what is a minister?

I Prophet.
A. Error to think of "fore tells." Speaks for God.
B. Most people's relig. in past or future. No present tense.
C. Prophet speaks of God here, now.
1. Radical dimension of word of Jesus. Here + now.
2. Men resist for past + future are at safe distance. Easier. Less.
D. But how can a man speak of God today?
1. By believing God still at work.
2. By believing will of God to be done here.
3. Audacious, risky, unsafe.
4. Call to moment of truth.
E. But if not here, where? If not now, when?

II Priest.
A. Image not common to us. yet function is, and it is necessary.
B. Of course in prayer, worship, listening.
C. But priest functions to preserve insights, truths, values, of faith's history.

D. God's people forget easily
1. Blessing. Priest lead in celebration.
2. Judgments. Same sins repeated.

E. Priest says remember.
1. Offering - Wds of our Lord Jesus.
2. Communion - Night He was betrayed.
3. Exhortation - Our fathers in wilderness.
4. Lose history & destroy future.

III King.
A. In what sense?
B. No crown. True. Doesn't need one.
1. Tragic story of Kg. Saul.
2. Kg., no crown; crown, no king.
C. Musical point made clear by Jesus.
1. Jno. 13.
2. Servant. He is chief among you.
3. Last posture. "Boy, come here"
Shined shoes.
4. But people take advantage of you.
Yes. But not your calling to be
clever, but be servant.
D. In sense, free of all, subject to none;
yet servant of all, subject to everyone.