

Walking Through The Veil IV: Living In His Presence

Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. – Exodus 25:8-9

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” – Hebrews 8:5

Reminders

It would be easy for us to simply get right into the Holy Place, what is in it and what the representation is, but God has a different pattern and method.

*Make a bronze basin with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it. Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. **Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die.** – Exodus 30:17-20a*

It is necessary that whenever we consider going into the presence of God that we recognize:

- 1) We have been cleansed already
- 2) Because of the contact we have with the world on a regular basis we need to be cleansed
- 3) We are human, and are in need of forgiveness in the same way as those we minister to
- 4) God has made provision for us to enter his presence in spite of the fact that we are not yet holy like he is.

The outer court was a place for doing business – removing impediments, but it was not the ultimate relationship or representation of what God wanted. As Christians, we can get caught up in “getting saved” and on the work of the cross – all of which is extremely important, but we have to look *into* these things and ask, “Why? What is it that God is preparing for us for which the finished work of the cross opens the door?”

*In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me **that you also may be where I am.** John 14:2-3*

Stop: What do you remember from last week? What was impactful? How are you prepared to enter His presence?

What You See... What He Sees

When you walk into the Holy Place, what you do see and what you don't are equally important.

- **Light** – There is no external light. The only light was coming from a candelabra (aka, a menorah) on the left side of the room. *The light was the only light that was needed, as it was not designed to focus on the aesthetics, but on the function and imagery.* In other words, while everything had significance, it was not the physical appearance that was the focus. The priests serving in the Holy Place could get caught up in what they saw, rather than on what God was doing with them and with the Children of Israel.
- **Necessities** – There were only 3 items in the Holy Place. God could have required many more things, or required Moses to fill up the Holy Place with treasures to show how important God was to Israel, but that was not God's interest or purpose. Micah 6:6-8 says, *"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, I man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**"* The items in the Holy Place were exactly what God needed to show this stage of the life we are to live before Him.
- **Engagement** – The items in the Holy Place were not for view only, but rather they were items that required **human effort**. The Bread of Presence had to be replaced every week. The menorah had to have oil fed into it, and wicks had to be maintained. The incense had to be placed in the altar, and fire from the Brazen Altar brought into cause the smoke of the incense to ascend. When God brings us into his presence, he doesn't expect us to simply sit back and let him do it all. Rather, he engages us, requiring us to take steps to maintain the consistency of the elements of the Holy Place

The Elements

Then the Lord said to Moses: "Set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month. Place the ark of the Testimony in it and shield the ark with the curtain. Bring in the table and set out what belongs on it. Then bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. Place the hold altar of incense in front of the ark of the Testimony and put the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle." – Exodus 40:1-5

The Table / the Bread of Presence

The first element set up in the Holy Place was the table for the Bread of Presence (aka, showbread). Like the Ark of the Covenant, the table was made with wood and overlaid with gold. Wood represents our humanity, and gold God's deity. The entire inside of the tabernacle was made of wood overlaid with gold, as the tabernacle was to be a place where God met with his people. It was both the meeting place and the declaration of God's intention for his people:

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. – Psalm 8:4-5

The table was adorned with spoons, cups, and covers, indicating that it was not just a platform for display, but it was meant to be a place for fellowship around food.

This bread is to be set out before the Lord regularly, Sabbath after Sabbath, on behalf of the Israelites as a lasting covenant. It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in the sanctuary area, because it is a most holy part of their perpetual share of the food offerings presented to the Lord. – Leviticus 24:8-9

The bread was to be placed before the Lord for seven days, then replaced, the older bread given to the priests to eat as a part of the provision for them.

The Lampstand

The Lampstand was the only item in the Holy Place that was not made of wood. It was fashioned entirely out of gold. There were 7 branches to the lampstand. Both John (Revelation 1,3,4,5) and Isaiah (11:2) make reference to the 7 spirits of God

Activities and relevance

Activity	Representation	Relevance
Bread placed before God	God constantly seeing his people; Seeing them constantly renewed, constantly in his presence	Recognizing we are God's people everywhere: in the store, at school, in traffic. Not just God's people <i>before others</i> , but more importantly, God's people <i>before God</i> .
Bread replaced and eaten	God connecting with us in fellowship; God having us connect with each other; Receiving God's provision, His inheritance	Renewing our minds (our action – Romans 12; Receiving what God has for us; Sharing his provision in fellowship;
Lampstand tended daily	Fullness of the spirit of God illuminating the things God has put in our path to do	What are the things that we have to do to ensure that the light of God is able to shine in our lives? How do we "tend and trim the wicks" in our lives? How do we ensure that there is enough oil for the lamps?
Burning incense on the altar; Fuel for the altar of incense came from Brazen Altar	Praises for God filling our lives; Prayers / Intercession ascending to God; incense "set the stage" for the high priest to approach the mercy seat	What are you doing to set the stage for redemption to happen in your life?