

## THE HOLY PLACE

Text: Exodus 25:8, 9

As we have approached Easter, I am using the Old Testament Tabernacle as our template to the truths revealed in the Gospel: the Outer Court (from the Triumphal Entry to the Lord's Supper), The Holy Place (From Gethsemane to the trials of Jesus) and The Most Holy Place (from the Crucifixion to the interment). The Outer Court at first impression tells us the white linen fence has restricted us. We then viewed the one and only door as an emphatic statement that there is only one way to God. Then the Altar of Sacrifice reminds by graphic instruction and illustration of the price that must be paid for our entrance to God. Just beyond the altar was the Brass Laver that would literally mirror the one who approached it for washing, reflecting our need for cleansing. Finally, in our last discussion we closed out with the brass pins or pegs that hold the tabernacle fast, which exemplifies that Christ alone holds us fast.

This morning I want us to discuss The Holy Place, which we will attempt to parallel with Gethsemane to the trials of Jesus. The Holy Place consists of three very important pieces of furniture. As we step into this room, we see dead center (west) in front of the curtain that separates the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place is the Altar of Incense. Then to the right (north) is the Table of Shewbread. On the left (south) is the Golden Candlestick.

We enter the Holy Place through the Tabernacle Door which is the Outer Vail made of fine twined linen of blue, purple and scarlet (Exodus 36:37).

### I. THE PLACE OF PRAYER – THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

Exodus 30:1-10 pictures Christ as human yet divine (Exodus 30:1-3); His omnipresence (Exodus 30:4); sweet and perpetual prayer (Exodus 30:4-8; Hebrews 7:25); typical of the one and only acceptable sacrifice for sin (Exodus 30:9; Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:10); through Christ we may approach boldly (Exodus 30:10; Hebrews 13:20; 4:16).

Matthew 26:36: "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder." Matthew 26:39: "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

#### A. A Cup of Information

I bring to your attention Matthew 26:37-44. We see our Lord praying in the Garden and we are arrested by the fact the Christ "...began to be sorrowful and very heavy" (Matthew 26:37b).

#### B. A Cup of Desolation

In Mark 14: 32-36 we see another revelation. In Mark 14:33 it reads that Christ, "...began to be sore amazed and very heavy..." (shock and awe).

#### C. A Cup of Devastation

We see through the eyes of Dr. Luke in Luke 22:41-44 a unique description of this event. Jesus is undergoing such agony that He sweats great drops of blood.

#### D. A Cup of Damnation

What was so very terrible about this cup? The terror, the rage, the indignation of this furious cup that held the dregs of fire and brimstone has struck terror in the heart of our Lord that ultimately breaks and requires angelic resuscitation so that He might live to die the next day on the cross. John 18:11: "Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?" II Corinthians 5:21.

#### II. THE PLACE OF PROVISION - THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD

Exodus 25:23-30; Leviticus 24:5-9; John 6:35: "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

John 18:8: "Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:"

A. Christ provides salvation.

Romans 5:9: "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

B. Christ provides sanctification.

John 17:17: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

C. Christ provides glorification.

John 17:10: "And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them." Romans 8:30: "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

#### III. THE PLACE OF LIGHT – THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK

Exodus 25:31-40; Exodus 37:17-24

It was one piece (Exodus 25:31, 32). It was beaten to obtain the formation (Exodus 25:31; 36; Exodus 37:22). It testified of fruit (Exodus 25: 33-36). It provided light (Exodus 25:37; John 18:4-6). It was most valuable (Exodus 25:39). One talent was equal to 125 lbs. It was pure gold, making it in modern estimation worth \$4 million. I Peter 2:7a: "Unto you therefore which believe He is precious...".

#### THE MOST HOLY PLACE

Text: Hebrews 9:1-28

The High Priest would only enter into the Holy of Holies once a year and only with blood (Hebrews 9:7; Leviticus 16:14-30)

#### I. THE INNER VAIL

Hebrews 9:2; Exodus 26:31-34. Notice again the colors blue, purple and scarlet are the intertwined colors of the linen. All three entrances use these same colors telling us of the incarnation and sacrifice required to redeem us.

#### II. THE GOLDEN CENSOR

Leviticus 16:12, 13; Hebrews 9:4

Apart from the Golden Altar directly in front of the inner veil, the high priest would take the golden censor that would have live coals from the altar of sacrifice and he would strategically place the sweet incense that was beaten small upon the hot coals so that the Mercy Seat will be covered with smoke so that he would not die. Such is the seriousness of this holy under-taking.

### III. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

Exodus 25:10-12. The Ark of the Covenant is made from shittim wood then covered with beaten gold, both inside and out, depicting the holy life of the Lord internally and externally. Hebrews 9:4 discloses the contents of the Ark:

A. The Manna: "...wherein was the golden pot that had manna..."; Exodus 16:33, 34. This speaks of God's provision through the wilderness for forty years, assuring us that God keeps His Word to His people, even when we fail Him.

B. The Rod: "...Aaron's rod that budded..." shows us the authority of God to chose His priest and method of redemption (Numbers 17:8, 10).

C. The Commandments: "...and the tables of the covenant..." The commandments that we broke are in the Ark, showing us a path back to God (I Peter 2:25).

### IV. THE MERCY SEAT

Exodus 25:17-22. This lid of the Ark is made of solid gold and the cherubim on either side are all one piece with the seat. This is a great testament that salvation is all of God. The cherubim, although facing one another, are looking to the Mercy Seat where the blood is applied. Although there is no "seat" in the tabernacle it does prophetically look forward to the finished work of Christ: Hebrews 10:10-12; Hebrews 1:3.

God has promised to dwell with His people. Exodus 25:8: "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them." The word "dwell" comes to us from the Hebrew word *shakan* where we get the transliterated word *Shekinah*. In the Tabernacle it is specifically the Mercy Seat where God in His mercy manifests His Shekinah glory (Exodus 25:22).

Dr. Harry Ironside wrote, "An uncreated light, the Shekinah glory, shone above the mercy seat between the golden cherubim, whose wings were spread out over it. Into this sacred enclosure, where the presence of GOD was manifested, the ordinary priests were not permitted to enter; only the High Priest, and that just once a year. He went in carrying a golden basin filled with atoning blood, which he sprinkled upon the mercy seat and before it, where he himself took his stand."

Compare these verses: John 1:14; II Corinthians 4:6; II Corinthians 3:18; Romans 3:25; I John 2:2; I John 4:10.

-Pastor Pope-