**Connect Study—the Tabernacle**

Today, we are going to look at the master plan for a lifestyle of worship instituted by God through the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle that was constructed by Moses in the wilderness is like a snapshot of what worship is meant to be like for believers.

Heb 9:23 says that “the tabernacle and everything in it were copies of things in heaven”. In the New Testament, both the corporate body and individual believer are the Tabernacle (read 1 Cor 3:16 and I Cor 6:19)

Refer to the diagram of the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle has a fence around it. The fence was made out of goat hair. The purpose of the fence was to teach the children of Israel that the ground inside the fence was holy ground. The camp outside the fence was ordinary ground and the ground outside the camp was considered unclean.

There are six articles found in the Tabernacle. Each of those article foreshadow Christ and also serve as an application for our lifestyle of worship

* The Brazen altar
  + It’s the first article inside the camp. It’s where the sacrifices were offered
  + Christ: Jesus was the perfect sacrifice. We can only come into the presence of God through the cross of Jesus Christ.
  + Us: The Psalmist said “at his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy”. We are also to bring our entire life before God as a living sacrifice. So we enter into the presence of God through worship.
* The Bronze laver
  + The second article is the Bronze laver which looked a like a big pool.
  + Christ: The cleansing of Christ. Heb 10:9 says “…and so brothers and sisters we can boldly enter heaven’s most holy place because of the blood of Jesus”
  + Us: when the water is still, one can see his/her own reflection. We need to be still before God so that we can reflect on the word of God to show us any area in our lives that are not aligned to the word of God. We need to have a broken and contrite heart before the word of God.
* The Menorah (or the Lampstand)
  + As we enter into the tent, the first thing we notice in a dark place is the Menorah. The Menorah is the lampstand with seven branches.
  + Christ: He is the light of the world
  + Us: The Menorah represents the sevenfold spirit of God. We need to have communion with the Holy Spirit.
* Table of Showbread
  + The Table of Showbread sits opposite the menorah in the Holy Place.
  + Christ: He is the bread of life
  + Us: The priests ate the bread. Jesus said, “men shall not live by bread alone but by every word (rhema) that proceeds from the mouth of God.
* Altar of incense
  + The Altar of incense is a four horned altar
  + Christ: Jesus is the great high priest who intercedes for us day and night at the right hand of the Father.
  + Us: the altar of incense speaks of prayer. It unites the word and the spirit of God. We need to stand at the altar and pray. The ingredients that were used to make the incense such as resin, the mollusc shell etc. spoke of suffering. We need to pray even in the depth of suffering. Each of the priest’s in Moses’ time would wear a breastplate during their time of prayer with 12 precious gems on it which represented The Twelve Tribes. We too need to bring our family, our connect members before God in prayer.
* The Ark of the Covenant
  + The Holy of Holies housed the Ark of the Covenant which contained the Covenant (which was the 10 Commandments)
  + Christ: He is the King of Kings on the throne
  + Us: It’s the covenant relationship that we come to

Discussion Questions:

What did you learn about the masterplan of the lifestyle of worship?

Which point really spoke to you and why?

Ps Suubi used the analogy of The Wheel to represent our prayer life? Is the wheel of your prayer life rusty or turning slowly or gaining momentum? What can you do to improve it?

Share a recent testimony of answered prayer to encouraged your group.