

MIDWEEK

“Knees to the Earth”

Lesson 2: The Bronze Laver

ICE BREAKER:

As you begin table talk this week, discuss one take away from last week’s lesson on the outer court and the brazen altar that stuck out to you. If you are new to the discussion this week, introduce yourself and share a fun fact about yourself.

QUESTION 1:

This week’s study on the bronze laver deals with cleansing ourselves before God. Due to COVID, we are in a heightened awareness of cleanliness. Take a few minutes and discuss at your table some pet peeves that you have when it comes to personal hygiene.

STATEMENT:

In this lesson we learned that the bronze laver was used by the Levi Priests to cleanse themselves, to make themselves holy before entering the Holy place. This was a continual cleaning, not a one-time procedure, and it incorporated a physical and spiritual cleansing back in Old Testament times and even today. Physically one can be clean with good hygiene, but our spiritual cleanliness derives from our heart. This is why we daily, and at times throughout the day, need to allow the Holy Spirit to examine and cleanse our hearts so we can step into the presence of God with purity.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a bronze wash basin with a bronze stand. Place it between the Tabernacle and the altar, and fill it with water. Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and feet there. They must wash with water whenever they go into the Tabernacle to appear before the Lord and when they approach the altar to burn up their special gifts to the Lord—or they will die! They must always wash their hands and feet, or they will die. This is a permanent law for Aaron and his descendants, to be observed from generation to generation.”
– Exodus 30: 17-21

QUESTION 2:

Have someone at your table read Exodus 30: 17-21 out loud. Discuss the specific instructions God gave to Moses. Why do you think these instructions, in this particular order, were so important to God? What were the consequences for not following these instructions?

STATEMENT:

Purpose of the Laver -

In the last session, you heard about the altar. The altar was for a sinner; the laver was for a sin. The altar was where the sinner needed punishment; the laver was where the child needed cleansing. The altar spoke of blood; the laver spoke of water. The altar suggests this verse of Scripture: "...Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin" (Hebrews 9:22); the laver points to this: "Without holiness, no man shall see God." The laver served one great purpose, the washing and cleansing of the priest from all defilement.

QUESTION 3:

Take a few minutes and discuss the differences between the altar and the laver. What was the importance of the blood? What was the importance of the water?

"Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and feet there. They must wash with water whenever they go into the Tabernacle to appear before the Lord and when they approach the altar to burn up their special gifts to the Lord—or they will die!"

- Exodus 30:19-20

STATEMENT:

-The Hands

The hands speak of what they did, their service, their work, everything they put their hands to was important and so their hands needed to be cleansed always, and daily. The initial cleansing was done only once, the daily cleansing was done continuously, throughout the day.

-The Feet

The feet represented where they went, their lives and ways. Their walk had to be a holy walk, so their feet were washed always, everyday.

QUESTION 4:

Based on the significance of the washing of the hands and feet, what are some big take aways from this illustration that we can learn to apply in a daily walk?

QUESTION 5:

Mirrors were used in the laver for self-examination. What do you think this step is so important in the cleansing process?

CLOSING CHALLENGE

The second step in the Tabernacle prayer is symbolized through the Laver. This was a bowl of water where people were reminded of their sinfulness and their need to be cleansed and forgiven by God. This is known as the cleansing and preparation process. This is a time where we are to check our hearts and motives. This is a time of surrendering our lives to God daily as a reminder of His forgiveness.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can confess our sins to Him and receive complete forgiveness and a fresh start. In prayer, humbly and sincerely turn away from your sins and allow God to cleanse and renew you. Then, surrender your live and every part of yourself to Him.

Take a moment this week alone in front of a mirror. Look into the mirror for a few moments and allow God to reveal things that need to be cleansed in your life. As you reflect on the things that God has brought to your attention, move to a sink, or prepare a bowl of water and pray these words as a prayer of cleansing as you wash your hands:

“Heavenly Father, I confess my sins to You and turn away from them. (This is the time to be specific with areas that are in need of His cleansing.) Thank you, God, for freely forgiving me. As I turn away from my sin, I turn toward you, and I offer myself to you:

- I give you my tongue, to speak good and not evil**
- I give you my eyes, to focus on You and the needs of others**
- I give you my ears, to be sensitive to your voice**
- I give you my hands, to do good for others**
- I give you my feet, to walk in Your ways and follow your footsteps**
- I give you my mind, to be transformed and used by You”**