

MIDWEEK

“Knees to the Earth”

Lesson 5:

The Holy of Holies

The Ark of the Covenant

ICE BREAKER:

What is one thing that stood out to you the most from this study on prayer? Is there anything that you discovered in this study that you didn't already know?

STATEMENT:

On this journey you have followed directions and addressed the landmarks along the way and finally we get to reach our destination! We have gone from the outer courts into the Holy Place and now we face the veil. On the other side of this curtain is the Most Holy Place, called the Holy of Holies. There you find a gold box called The Ark of the Covenant. On the lid of the Ark of the Covenant was the mercy seat. On top of the mercy seat had 2 Cherubim, each with their wings covering the mercy seat.

Inside the Ark of the Covenant are three important items:

- 1. Pot of Manna - God's Daily Provision*
- 2. Aaron's Staff - God's Authority*
- 3. The Ten Commandments - God's Law*

QUESTION 1:

What did you find intriguing about the setting inside the Holy of Holies? What was important about the purpose of the veil?

QUESTION 2:

What was significant about the contents inside the Ark of the Covenant?

“You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”

Exodus 25:17-22 NKJV

STATEMENT:

Every year, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. Bringing burning incense to shield his eyes from a direct view of God’s glory, he sprinkled blood from a bull onto the atonement cover for his and his household’s sins, then sprinkled blood from a goat for all the sins of Israel.

God promised that when He saw the blood, it would cover over man’s sin. (To atone for means to cover over” hence the name atonement cover.) God did not see the sin anymore but saw the provision instead.

So the high priest encountered God and the sprinkling of the blood was intercession for the people.

So what does all of this mean for us today?

We have something they did not have. We have Jesus!

You don’t encounter God and walk away the same.

QUESTION 3:

Do you remember a time when you walked away changed, after having an encounter with God? Share your experience.

CLOSING CHALLENGE:

This amazing study on prayer would not be significant if it didn't prompt you to strengthen your prayer time with God. One of the biggest missing pieces in prayer life is the part of hearing what God has to say to you. Here are a few tips to guide you as you discover what the voice of God is saying to you:

Initial steps to hearing God's voice:

1. Set an appointment.

- Set a time and place and come prepared to hear.
- We schedule things that are important to us. It's not "un-spiritual" to put this on your calendar if you need to.

2. Ask the right questions.

- Rather than ask God why and when questions, ask Him to talk about who he is, and who you are in Christ.
- Often we don't hear because we ask the wrong questions.
- God is often more interested in establishing our relationship with him and our identity in him than he is in telling us where to live or whom to date or marry. Also, your "issue" may not be THE "issue".

3. Be still and LISTEN.

- We sometimes have only a one-way prayer – us talking!
- Try that type of communication with your spouse or friends and let me know how it works for you.
- What God has to say is a lot more important than what you or I have to say.