

INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

TEXT: EXODUS: 30:17-20

LESSON THREE - THE BRAZEN LAVER

INTRODUCTION: After the priests accepted the sacrifices for the people they needed to be cleansed before they could perform any further work on men or their own behalf. They had become polluted by dealing with the sin-stained masses and by working to bring them to the forgiveness represented at the Brazen Altar and paid for by Christ.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BRAZEN LAVER

1. The Brazen Laver, or basin, was a large **brass** bowl filled with water.
 - ✓ The brass was taken from the **mirrors** of the women (Ex.38:8).
2. The word Laver means **wash** basin. The English derivative of this word is lavatory which carries the meaning of place of washing.
3. The Brazen Laver was used by the priests to wash the **dirt** and blood from their hands and feet before entering into the Tabernacle.

THE PLACE OF THE BRAZEN LAVER

1. The Brazen Laver stood about **halfway** between the Brazen Altar and the Holy Place (Ex.40:30).
2. Unlike the bronze altar that was available to everyone, only the **priests** had access to the Laver.
 - ✓ Those who have put their **faith** in Jesus are called a royal priesthood, chosen generation a holy nation.
3. Every time a priest drew near to commune with God, he was required to wash in the Laver first. Any defilement on him would cause his **death**.
 - ✓ Today this Laver is the **Word** of God (Eph.5:26).
 - ✓ If we have accepted Jesus as Lord, we are priests under the New Covenant and should be continually **washing** daily in the Word.
 - ✓ Keeping ourselves spiritually clean is the responsibility of every **Christian** by the daily exercise of applying God's Word in everyday living, to keep our thoughts and motives pure.
 - ✓ We need to allow ourselves to stand in the **place** where the Word of God can cleanse and sanctify us daily.

NOTES:

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



The Brazen Laver

INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

- ✓ As the Brazen Altar dealt with **past** sins and allows us entrance into the family of God, the Laver deals with present sins as it continually cleanses our acts of the flesh that would keep us from being filled with "all the fullness of God".

As we walk in this contaminated world, we are defiled by the sin around us and must continue to "clean" off that defilement with the Word.

THE PROVISION OF THE BRAZEN LAVER

1. The Brazen Laver was a place provided for **cleansing**.
 - ✓ The Brazen Laver was provided by **God** for the sanctification of the priests.
 - ✓ The word sanctified means to be set apart. First the Christian is set apart from **sin**. Second the Christian is set apart for divine service.
2. The Brazen Laver was a place provided for **self** judgment.
 - ✓ When the priest became defiled, he was required to **wash** himself.
 - ✓ It is our responsibility to take care of any sin that may come **between** us and God.
 - ✓ ***For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 1 Corinthians 11:31***
3. The Brazen Laver was a place provided for **reflection**.
 - ✓ The priests would **see** their reflection as they looked into the Laver while washing themselves.
 - ✓ As we look into the Word/Laver, we do not see our own reflection, but we see Jesus. With continual gazing at Him, we are **transformed** from glory to glory into His image.

The Word is our looking glass; from it God shows us the things in our lives that are not pleasing to Him; we need daily cleansing. See (James 1:23-25)

We become what we focus on.

THE PRIVILEGE OF THE BRAZEN LAVER

1. After the priest was justified at the Brazen Altar and sanctified at the Brazen Laver, he was now ready to **offer** worship and service to the Lord.
 - ✓ The greatest privilege of every Christian is to have **direct** access into the presence of God.