

The Tabernacle – The Table of Showbread

Slide #2

- The first room holds the candlestick, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense
 - Remember, everything in this earthly Tabernacle was "the example and shadow of heavenly things" (Hebrews 8:5)
- **The Dinner Table**
 - For many of us, the dining room table may be a special place in our home. Why?
 - It is the place we are fed
 - It is a place where the family gathers and visits
 - Our dinner conversations might include: "how was your day?" or "what did you learn in Sunday school?" or "what do you think about this supper?"
 - We are having family time over a shared meal (sharing things in common)
 - Literal mealtime teaches the symbolism of the Table of Showbread in the Tabernacle.
- Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."
 - In Bible times, supper was a social meal
 - "to break bread together" at the supper table was symbolic of friendship
 - Salvation is not only having Christ come into our hearts
 - it also includes regular times of fellowship with Him
 - "fellowship" means sharing something in common (common interests)
- In the Garden of Eden, God had fellowship with Adam & Eve, but sin broke that fellowship
 - Through the Tabernacle, God is teaching us that fellowship is restored through Jesus
 - Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6)
 - O.T. – to eat at a king's table (Mephibosheth; 2 Sam. 9:7) was a position of great honor
 - N.T. – do we understand the great privilege Christ has made available? (Luke 22:30)

Slide #3 – The Table

- Exodus 25:23 "Two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof."
 - literal measurements serve as types (they are examples of something spiritual)
 - one cubit wide = only enough room for the bread, nothing else
 - "one" symbolizes unity (oneness with Christ and His church)
 - two cubits long = the Word and the Spirit
 - the Spirit AND the Word keep us in fellowship with Christ
- Exodus 25:23-24 "Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood ... overlay it with pure gold"
 - "wood" = Christ's humanity ("men as trees"; Mark 8:24 and Psalm 1:3)
 - Christ had to be human so He could "be touched with the feeling of our infirmities [human weaknesses]"; Hebrews 4:15
 - "pure gold" = Christ's righteousness (Malachi 3:3)
 - "overlay it" = the wood (human part) was covered by the gold (divine)
 - we need God to help us keep our flesh (humanity) under (in its rightful place)
 - too many let the human (wood) overshadow the spiritual (gold)
 - We say: "I'm going to give them a piece of my mind"
 - **OR** "I'm too tired to go to church tonight"

- **OR** "The standard is too strict; I don't see it that way"
- do these opinions come from the "wood" or the "gold"?
 - which part is showing?
 - does our humanity (flesh) dominate the spiritual?

Slide #4 – A Border With a Golden Crown

- Exodus 25:25 "And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about."
- The "border" kept the bread securely in its position on the table, especially when the table was carried on the shoulders of the Kohathites while traveling in the wilderness
- This table (representing Christ, who is the Word) has a distinct border
 - Many families have dinner table rules (borders or boundaries, such as no cell phones, no chewing with your mouth open, clear off your plate, say "please & thank you," etc.
 - God's table (the Word) has some distinct borders or boundaries as well
- **Key Words:**
 - "border" = a boundary; keeps things in place
 - "crown" = something a king (a ruler) wears
 - this "border" (keeping the Word in place) has a "golden crown"
 - "golden crown" = not something we get when we get to Heaven
 - when we are saved, we are reigning over sin
 - if we are not wearing a crown here, how will we get to Heaven?
 - James 1:12 "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life."
 - "endureth temptation" = does not give in
 - "crown of life" = victorious spiritual life (living with victory over sin)
 - Revelation 3:11 "hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."
 - if your "crown" is not given to you until you get to Heaven, how can you "hold that fast"?
 - this "border" includes holiness (reigning over sin)
 - it makes no room for sin in the Christian's life
 - when people teach you cannot live free from sin – they are moving the border
 - stretching it out to include something God's Word does not include
 - Proverbs 22:28 — "remove not the ancient landmark [boundary]"
 - Revelation 22:18-19 warns us to not **add** to or **take away** from the Word of God
 - Proverbs 23:10 – if we "remove" the "old landmark" (boundaries) ...
 - we become "fatherless" (no longer in a relationship with God)
 - we have moved to a different table ("the table of devils"; 1 Corinthians 10:21)
 - there are only two tables, two suppers taking place – you are at one or the other

Slide #5 – The Showbread

- Exodus 25:30 "And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway."
 - "table of shewbread" = also "The Bread of the Face" or "The Bread of the Presence"
 - the bread was put on the table in the Lord's presence (before His face)
 - "bread" symbolizes Jesus Christ
 - Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread"
 - John 6:51 Jesus said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven"

- Amos 8:11 "bread" is "the words of the LORD"
- 1 Chronicles 9:31-32 — one family was in charge of preparing the bread
 - Jewish history = Garmu family (the ones who prepared the bread)
 - The family only ate simple, rough bread, so no one would suspect them of using the "fine flour" for their own personal meals.
 - The family would not share the recipe: "Lest some unworthy person will use the secret of the showbread for idol worship."

Slide #6 – The Bread

- Leviticus 24:5 "And thou shalt take ... bake twelve cakes thereof"
 - "cakes" = the bread
 - "twelve cakes" = representing the 12 tribes of Israel (all of God's people in the O.T.)
 - symbolizes that God provided for all His people
 - likewise, in the N.T., God is providing spiritual food for all His people
 - James, writing to the "brethren" (fellow Christians), wrote to "the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad" (James 1:1)
 - "scattered" = the "church" (Acts 8:1)
- Leviticus 24:6 "And thou shalt set them in two rows"
 - "two rows" = The Word of God has 2 portions – O.T. and N.T. (we need both)
- Leviticus 24:9 "they shall eat it" (both rows); it is **all** to be consumed
 - Revelation 10:9 "eat it up" (all of it) – do not pick and choose
 - some say if it's not in red letter (Jesus' words), we do not have to obey it
 - what did Jesus quote to the devil in His temptation? ("it is written"; Matthew 4:4) - O.T.
- Leviticus 24:8 "Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually"
 - **Ellicott's Commentary:** "Four priests entered the holy place, two of them carried in their hands the two piles of the cakes, and two carried in their hands the two incense cups, four priests having gone in before them, two to take off the two old piles, and two to take off the two incense cups. Those who brought in the new stood at the north side with their faces to the south, and those who took away the old stood at the south side with their faces to the north. As soon as the one party lifted up the old, the others put down the new, so that their hands were exactly over against each other, because it is written, before my Presence continually" (Exodus 25:30).
- **Spiritual Lessons:**
 - there is always spiritual food at the Lord's table
 - called "the continual bread" (Numbers 4:7)
 - God's Word is "continual" (does not change)
 - while the world's standards and morals (borders/boundaries) are changing, God's Word says, "For I am the LORD, I change not" (Malachi 3:6)

Slide #7 – Eating at the Lord's Table

- Israel was traveling in the "wilderness of Sin" (Exodus 16:1) – they had many enemies
- Psalm 23:5 says God has prepared a table for us "in the presence of mine enemies"
- **Spiritual Lessons:**
 - We live in a spiritual wilderness of sin (sinful world), but God has prepared a "table"
 - God is inviting His people to "Come and dine" (John 21:12)
 - What will we eat at this table? (The Word of God)

- When we are "partakers of the Lord's table," we are in "fellowship" (1 Corinthians 10:20-21)
 - when we are in "fellowship" = we have things in common with Christ and with others who eat at this table
 - What do we have in common? We all have spiritual life (we are saved)
- O.T. – only the priests could eat this bread, in the N.T. all who are saved are priests
 - for the world to be able to eat this bread, they must come by way of the altar and laver first
 - this is why so many misunderstand and misinterpret the Bible
- Christ is the light of the church (lampstand); without this light, you could not see the bread (the Word)
 - The Spirit of Christ (Holy Spirit) gives understanding to the Word
- Just as God provided "bread" (manna), daily food, for His people (Ex 16:1-36), God provides the spiritual "daily bread" needed to keep us alive (Matthew 6:11)
- This table is a place of fellowship with other Christians, hearing the Word together
 - Once we come by the altar (forgiveness of sins), wash at the laver (removing the evil spirit & allowing the Holy Spirit to come in), we enter the first room
 - not only are we seeking the Word and the Spirit's leading
 - true Christians desire fellowship with other Christians (the body)

Slide #8 – Are You Hungry?

- Christ is inviting us to "Come and dine" with Him
- Luke, Chapter 14 — an invitation to "a great supper" was sent out ... **BUT**
 - "I need to check this land I just bought"
 - "I need to prove some oxen I have bought"
 - "I cannot come because of my wife"
- Do we have excuses for not meeting Christ in our personal, daily devotions, for not "showing up" (physically AND mentally) in the worship services? Will these excuses work?
- Imagine the priests not being hungry or not liking the showbread and throwing it out!
 - Psalm 50:17 warns about people who "hatest instruction, and casteth my words behind thee."
 - When we refuse to hear and obey God's words, we are casting them away or behind us
- These words are our spiritual lifeline – we need to eat them (listen and obey)
- ♪ "Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; Let me more of their beauty see; Wonderful words of life; Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty; Beautiful words, wonderful words, Wonderful words of life." ♪
 - But we have to WANT those words of life
- Paul wrote about the need to have a "VEHEMENT desire" (2 Corinthians 7:11) – intense!
- You have been invited to God's great supper, to the Table of His Presence – a great honor!