

GETTING SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

Exod 25:23-27

S1: # 75 ~ The Wonder of It All

S2: # 272 ~ Give Me the Bible

INTRO

- **Dr. Samaan's** book we shared last week ~ and our current series of sermons ~ focuses on **SANTIFICATION**
 - We've been justified ... we're being sanctified ... we will be glorified
- We've standing in the doorway of the **Holy Place** ... 1st room @ the **tent**
 - Inside the Holy Place ... we're surrounded by incredible beauty
 - Experts suggest there was approx **1.25 tons** of gold in the tent
 - In front of us is the altar of incense ~ look at in our **next** sermon
 - On our left is the golden lamp stand we discussed **last** Sabbath
 - Opposite it ... on our right ... is the **Table of Showbread**
- **Today** ~ want us to:
 - Quickly look at the size of the **Table of Showbread**
 - Consider the **Showbread itself** ~~ and of course ...
 - Understand the **spiritual significance** of all this for **us**

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE TABLE

- Our Scripture Reading gave us the details
 - It was @ **3** ft long; **18"** wide; and, **2.5** ft tall ~ our **Comm Table**
 - The edge of the table top had a golden molding w/an ornate design
 - At the corners were gold rings ... used with the carrying poles to transport the Table

- There were also some accessories for the table according to **Exod 25:29**
 - The **dishes** were to hold the loaves of bread
 - The **spoons** were small cups which were filled with **incense** ~ they burned on top of the showbread {Lev 24:7 and Num 7:14}
 - The **covers** are believed to have been used in the rite of the drink offerings {Num 28:7}

TRANS: The really important item for **us** is **SHOWBREAD** itself

- Each loaf of bread was made of **4** quarts of fine flower {Lev 24:5}
 - **12** loaves were on the table in golden plates ~ ~ **2 x 6** {Lev 24:6}
 - One loaf of bread for each of the **12** tribes
- **SHOWBREAD** represented a perpetual **Thank Offering** to God
 - Thru this bread ~ **OT Jews** consecrated to God the fruits of their labors ... and admitted they enjoyed them **only** thru God's blessing
 - Each Sabbath ~ **new bread** was set on the table: **Lev 24:5~9**

TRANS:

- The "old" showbread was for those who **worshipped** **and** **served** God
 - Imagine the priests ate w/ ***a keen sense*** of its spiritual significance

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

- History is fine ... it's good to know the meaning and significance of the Showbread to OT Jews
 - But it's more important to see that in the **NT** ~ ~ **bread** is symbolic of the **Living Word of God** ~ ~ and ~ ~ the written **Word of God**

- Let's Notice the **Living Word** ~ **John 6:51**
 - Jesus is the **sustenance** of each believer's life ...
 - At Calvary ~ Jesus provided for our eternal life
- Jesus is the origin of spiritual life ... He provided for our eternal life
 - A **silly** question: *Since we have eternal life ~ have we **stopped** eating*
 - To maintain good health ... we must **take in** nourishment
 - This fact brings us to ... the **Written Word of God**
- To remain in good **spiritual health** we must have regular nourishment from the Written Word of God
 - Can't deny the Word of God is necessary spiritual food ~~ **Matt 4:4**
 - **Jesus** relied on His Father ... and **every** Word of His Father
- Just as God gave the Jews **manna** in the desert to sustain them
 - So for Spiritual Food to sustain us ~~ **we** must rely on God's Word
- Eating good food is delightful & rejuvenating ... think @ **Thanksgiving**
 - We can get the same results from taking in God's Word ... **Jer 15:16**
 - Jeremiah consumed God's Word ~~ he **assimilated** it
 - He made it a part of who he was ~ a part of his life
- Come back with me to a very important truth we've already touched on ...
 - ... the showbread could **only** be eaten by the **priests**
 - Bible says that all Christians today are priests unto God ...
 - **1 Peter 2:9**
- As Christians we all have the same **type** of relationship to God ... **but** ...
 - not all enjoy the same degree of fellowship {**repeat for emphasis**}

- If that sounds confusing ... **let me explain with this Visual Aid – Slide**
 - Some figuratively **chose** to remain in the court yrd of the sanctuary
 - They refuse to wash daily at the laver and **serve** GOD
- **GOD wants** ... all His children to take advantage of the **laver** and wash themselves by confessing and forsaking all known sin in their lives
 - Then ~ they can enter the **Holy Place** ... and **serve** HIM
 - Priests could only enter the Holy Place **after** washing
- I submit for your consideration:
 - It is in the **Holy Place** of the **Christian Service** that we have a **close** fellowship with God ...
 - ... this is where the Word of God can be *the joy and rejoicing* we read about in **Jer 15:16**
- Remember ~~ the table of showbread was in the Holy Place
 - A place where the priests were separated from the distractions of the world outside ~~ ***there's a lesson here for us***
 - The location of the Showbread should help us to think about *how we partake* of God's written Bread of Life
- Have you noticed that some read the Bible and get so much out of it while others find it confusing ?
 - Could the reason be that some believers are serving God as the **Priests** God want them to be ...
 - ... while others are just standing around in the courtyard
- Its true ~~ all have accepted the sacrifice **Jesus** made for us at the altar
 - **But** some don't figuratively wash themselves daily at the laver ...

- There is unpardoned sin in our lives ...
 - ... the process of '**sanctification**' has stopped in their lives
 - We're no longer working out our own salvation ...
- **If** the Bible seems to have lost its **joy and rejuvenating** power for you ...
 - ... may I suggest you take a look at your **walk** with God
 - To get the most out of the Bible ~ we must have an **active service life** ... based on a loving relationship with its Author
 - Christian relationship w/God is like **a stool**
 - **3 legs: Prayer ~ Study ~ Service (intertwined)**

CONCLUSION

- The bread on the **Table of Showbread** was eaten only by Priests
 - In this room ... we've partaken of the Living Bread of Life: **Jesus**
 - **BUT** we must consume the **Written Bread of Life: ~ the Bible**

An illustration of the power of God's Word & service from my life

- You know I accepted Jesus (Living Bread of Life) as my Savior in College
 - Wonder what would have happened if I **stopped** right there ...
- **Luckily** the Holy Spirit wanted me to continue and partake of the Written Bread of Life ~ **the Bible**
 - Came to an understanding of the Sabbath Truth some **11** years before ever knew the SDA Church existed
 - Wonder what would have happened if I **stopped** right there
- Holy Spirit wanted me to continue to partake of God's Word
 - A couple of years later ~ I came to understand some prophecy
 - Wonder what would have happened if I **stopped** there

- Holy Spirit had me continue partaking of the Written Bread of Life
 - Years later I attended a Daniel & Revelation Seminar ~ was baptized into Charleston SDA Church where I started **servicing** my Lord
 - Blessed w/opp to teach **JAMES** at weekly prayer meeting
 - Wonder what would have happened if I **stopped** there
- Holy Spirit wanted me to continue to study the Bible ... and to **serve**
 - **3** years later I came to an understanding of God's Will for my life
 - Retired from the Air Force to pursue becoming a SDA pastor
 - Wonder what will happen **if** I stop right here?
- **Holy Spirit** wants us to continue to study **the Bible ...** and **serve God**
- **Each of you** can do what I just shared ~ each of you can share how God has revealed more truth ... the longer you studied His Word & served Him
 - **Dulce** & **Sean/Angela** have a greater appreciation for and understanding of God's Word after recently leading out in **VBS**
 - Studying God's Word prepares you to serve ~~ and ~~
 - ... being a serving priest forces you to His Word
- **We stop partaking of God's Showbread at our own peril**
 - Don't you want to **continue to eat** at God's Table?
 - Don't you want to continue to grow into the **Priest** God called you to be?
 - If so ... then ... **you'll need feed on ... God's Word**

272: Give Me the Bible