

Introduction- Credit to Ray Vanderlaan

I will lead you out of slavery God told His people. I will lead you in the desert He would tell them later. He was present with them at every step. And He was present with them during their time of training and testing in the desert. And He made a way for them to know His presence was with them every day. Build for me a dwelling place. IMAGE 1 A portable tent. A Tabernacle. Build it and I will come and live amongst you. So we are finishing our series today about this incredible structure that allowed Holy God to dwell with sinners.

When I think of the Tabernacle, I think about the incredible intimacy that Moses had with God. It started on Mt Sinai. The fire of God all around Him. God's presence with Moses on top of the mountain. If you remember at the beginning I spoke of the challenge Moses must have felt coming down from just having spent 40 days with God.

How do I keep this fire alive? I do I keep the feelings and emotions that I had when I was alone with God...now that I am coming back into sinful man's world. I need to keep the fire of God alive....in me...in others.

We have discovered that God's answer to Moses' concern was the Tabernacle. We noted that God spent 50 chapters in the Bible describing the construction and use of this temporary meeting place and He only spent 2 chapters speaking of the creation of the entire world. The Tabernacle was incredibly important to God.

Last week we went into the Holy of Holies and learned about the Arc of the Covenant. PHOTO 2 This ark was in a cloud of incense that gave a mysterious and spiritual presence to it. God often appeared in smoke because you could not look directly at God. The altar of incense filled the place with a wonderful aroma but at the same time a mysterious essence.

The Mercy seat and the Cherubim were carved out of a single piece of pure gold. Just like we saw with the Golden Lampstand. And above the mercy seat and between the wings of the Cherubim is where the essence of God lived. The mercy seat is not God, God can't be represented in an image. It is where God dwelt.

God dwells between the Cherubim and God spoke to Moses from that exact place. The rest of the Torah the first five books of the Bible were given to Moses by God in the Holiest Place between the Cherubim. Those are the details.

We have spent most of our seven weeks talking about the details. Each piece of furniture. The details of the curtains, the metals, the altar, the laver, the Table of Shewbread, The Golden Lampstand, the Altar of Incense, the Veil, the Holy of Holies, the Box of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat. Lots of details.

But to close out this series, I want us to focus on the big picture. Let's close out the ark issue and then look at some more overarching themes of the Tabernacle.

Let me address one lingering question left over from last week.....Where is the Ark today? Well...which Ark?

The Ark in Heaven is still in heaven....it never left...never changed...Remember the entire Tabernacle on earth was a replica of the one in Heaven. So one answer is obviously, the true Ark of the Covenant is where it has always been...

Revelation 11:19 (ESV) 19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

Ok but what about the Earthly Ark of the Covenant...you know...the movie? The archaeologists? Is it in the Vatican? Is it in Ethiopia? Is it buried under the temple mount...under the place called Golgatha? Did the Babylonians carry it away Did they destroy it? Do the Germans have it?

I think the Prophet Jeremiah knew where the ark went. Many believe He is the one who hid it before the Babylonians invade in 586 BC.

So when did the Ark disappear from Scripture? We last read about the Ark on earth about 600 years before Jesus' birth.....

The Bible is silent on the Ark of the Covenant at the time of (and just prior to) the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. The last Scriptural reference of the whereabouts of the Ark prior to Revelation 11:19 is

2 Chronicles 35:3 (ESV) 3 And he said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the Lord, "Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. You need not carry it on your shoulders. Now serve the Lord your God and his people Israel.

This passage tells us that the Ark of the Covenant was still in the Holy of Holies during the 18th year of Josiah's reign (622 B.C.).

But just 6 years later....Ezekiel is brought to the Temple to witness why God's presence is leaving the Temple. Ezekiel testified to what the nation's leaders are doing in secret, thinking God did not know. He witnesses the idolatry taking place in secret how the nation's leaders worshipped abominations in the Temple. God asks Ezekiel, "Have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness" (Ezekiel 8:12).

Ezekiel chapters eight to eleven reveals how the presence of God, leaves His Temple, Solomon's Temple, because of the sins taking place.

Ezekiel mentions that the Glory of the Lord departed from between the Cherubim (Ezekiel 10:4, 18) during the sixth year of Jeconiah's exile (593-592 B.C.). From that point forward, the ark of the covenant on earth is insignificant and not really mentioned again. If God is not above it, who care about an old coffin?

Which means that after the exiles returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple...there was no ark. The old one was gone....where we don't know...and apparently neither did they.They could not recreated it. The tables of the Law had been written by the finger of God (Deuteronomy 10:2-5), and could not be constructed by the hand of man. They could not reproduce Aaron's Rod of a bowl full of manna. And they all know God didn't dwell there anymore.

And since the Ark no longer represented God's Dwelling place...it was no longer necessary. Jeremiah speaking for God told us....

Jeremiah 3:15-17 (ESV) 15In those days, declares the Lord, they shall no more say, "The ark of the covenant of the Lord." It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again.

So Herod's Temple...The Temple in Jesus' Day...did not have the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies. Just a rock where the Holy of Holies once stood.

Occasionally you will see images of the veil in Herod's Temple being torn in two and the golden ark behind the veil...not true. It hadn't been there for over 500 years.

God told us this ark would one day become unimportant because God would not dwell in the Ark but in His children and when the Millennial Kingdom comes....

Jeremiah 3:15–17 (ESV) 17 At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.

Sure it would be an incredible historical find, but we must remember that it is merely wood and gold. It holds no supernatural powers in and of itself. God's presence with the Ark is what gave it its significance. His presence left the ark with the invasion by the Babylonians. Just a box now...A coffin and it will remain that way.

The ark only matters to those who doubt its existence....Those still trying to prove God....Those who believe they just need one more piece of evidence...

So let's leave the ark and focus on the bigger picture of the Tabernacle.

All year the direction of flow was into the Tabernacle. PHOTO 3

You decided to enter the gate, you went to the Brazen Altar where you participated in death and the shedding of innocent blood for you. You were moved by the Spirit of God to the laver where you learned God's truth, you surrendered and confessed your sins, you prepared yourself and everyone else to enter through the door to the Holy Place. You were illuminated by the Light of God, you participated in the Bread of Life, your prayers created a cloud of incense.

Every day, innocent blood was brought from the Bronze Altar and sprinkled in two places. PHOTO 4 First just in front of the Altar of Incense and then on each of the four horns of the Altar of Incense. Every day...it was as if you were taking the sins each day and placing them before God.

Each day, the sins of the people would build up on the Altar of Incense....more innocent blood each day....by the final months of the year...blood...our sins...were all over it.

But one day each year....One very special day...this flow is reversed. Eventually all these sins that we have allowed to pile up in front of God need to be taken away. We have to get rid of the impact of our accumulated sins. So one day each year.....Yom Kippur...The Day of Atonement...The High Holy Day

Leviticus 16:2–5 (ESV) 2And the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. 3 But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. 5 And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

Leviticus 16:6–10 (ESV) 6 "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. 7 Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. 9 And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering, 10 but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.

Leviticus 16:11–14 (ESV) 11 "Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. 12 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil 13 and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die. 14 And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

Leviticus 16:15–16 (ESV) 15 "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. 16 Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.

Leviticus 16:17–19 (ESV) 17 No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. 18 Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. 19 And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

Leviticus 16:20–22 (ESV) 20 "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. 22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

Leviticus 16:23–24 (ESV) 23 "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and shall take off the linen garments that he put on when he went into the Holy Place and shall leave them there. 24 And he shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garments and come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people.

Two goats are brought in. One is tied to the Bronze Altar and the other one is killed. We bring the blood of the innocent dead goat to the Holy Places in the Tabernacle. But interestingly, we do something very different this time. We start on the inside and come out. We reverse the flow. The Day is called Yom Kippur.

First on the Lid of the Ark in the Holiest Place. Then in front of the ark. Then on the horns of the Altar of Incense. Then on the front of the Altar of Incense. Then we come outside....we sprinkle it on the base of the Bronze Altar....Then on the horns of the Brazen Altar.

God had directed a reversal of flow for this one special day each year. The sins of the people are placed on the goat tied to the Bronze Altar....the escape Goat....and the goat is taken outside the Eastern gate...outside the camp and let loose into the Western desert to carry away the sins of the people and will die in the wilderness.

Also don't miss the symbolism of Aaron leaving behind his linen garments in the Holy Place and coming out to make atonement for all the people. A foreshadowing of the Resurrection of Jesus. And the burial linens left in the Tomb

The fear was that if God did not accept the innocent blood on that day that their names would be removed from the Book of Life. They had great fear that the High Priest might die in the Holy Place because God refused to accept the innocent blood of the goat as payment for their sins.

If God accepted their payment of blood...then the High Priest lived and the scape goat took away their sins out of the eastern gate. So the entire nation of Israel stood outside the tent waiting to see if the High Priest reappears. That moment reminds me of the blackout time as astronauts reenter the atmosphere. Prayers and hopes that they reappear.

Psalm 103:12 (ESV) 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

This is of course a picture of Jesus. All of the sins of man had piled up throughout all of human history, including the ones not yet committed. Jesus goes into the Holy of Holies...takes all those sins...He becomes the innocent scape goat....The sins of all the people are placed on Him at the altar/cross. His blood covers the altar...His blood is at the base of it...and He is carried away outside of the city to die for the sins of the people.

It is an incredible big picture of God saying....once and for all...I am carrying away the sins of mankind on to Jesus. He was taken out of the city...and died. People waited....picture them...three days...and YES Jesus is back! God accepted the payment...our sins are forgiven...all of them....forever....for everyone...everyone who believes in the blood of the Lamb of God.

Another big picture. Lets go in our minds to Mt Sinai.

God said...Moses I want to take you Israel to be my wife. I want to be in covenant with you forever.

Some months ago, I preached about Jewish weddings and the covenant that was established. If you remember the Jewish wedding.....they got married...made their vows to God under the canopy, Remember the covenant or marriage vows...remember the mictvah or cleansing of the bride...the washing of Israel before it all happened.

We have the tent...the covenant...the laver of cleansing...we have fine white linen sheets and we have the evidence, they thought, of the purity of the bride through the shedding of innocent pure blood. The marriage covenant like all other covenants in the Old Testament involved promise made with words and promise confirmed in blood.

"Blood or sheet ceremonies are part of the long history of virginity testing, which is designed to generate proof that a bride's sexual encounter with her new husband is her first sexual experience: blood on the sheets is, apparently, demonstration, that her hymen was 'broken' on her wedding night,"

So important it is, that the parents of the young woman preserve the evidence that she was a virgin on her wedding night, so that if her husband proves to be a scoundrel and accuses her of not being what she said she was, then the parents produce the evidence of the blood covenant with the garment or the sheet that absorbed the blood in the cutting of the covenant.

The outer court the outside portion is like the living room. That is where you invite guests...that is where you share your experiences with others...that is where you fellowship and do life together....But all Jewish weddings had a bridal chamber. A place for the husband and wife to get away from the guests and spend time with their family. They also had a private part of the bridal chamber that was only for them. It was usually behind a sheet or veil. It is in this place where intimacy occurs and the blood evidence of the Bride's purity is revealed.

This concept is not totally foreign to us today. I remember the sanctity of my Mom and Dad's bedroom. You needed permission to go in there. It was their escape. Their place in our house to share their love and intimacy that made their marriage stronger.

God said...build me a sanctuary...and I always expected God to then say..."And I will live in it" But he doesn't say that...He says "Build a Sanctuary and I will live AMONG You. In the Greek...it is often translated..."Build me a Sanctuary and I will live IN you." That is the intimacy that God spoke of.

We abide with Christ...we strengthen our relationship with Him....we are shaped and molded to be like Him...we are transformed in the Spiritual Holy Place and the Spiritual Holiest Place. That is where we belong. That is what we are leaning about on Monday Nights. That is where we find true intimacy with Christ and that is where our desires are changed...and our temptations fall away...We Spiritually today...live with Jesus....in the Holy Place...and with the Trinity in the Holiest Place....we are expected to go there every day.

Can you imagine a marriage without a place of intimacy? A place of intimacy where couples are to spend time together in relationship but then never do? Neither can God.

Spiritually for those of us in a covenant with Jesus...He waits for us to abide with Him in His Sanctuary....His place...that He build and designed...just so He could be with you...That is where He is....where are you?

Another image that begins at Mt Sinai.PHOTO 5

Do you remember the power of God that was manifested on Mt Sinai. The cloud....the fire....the glory....the shaking of the ground...Holy Ground...smoke...How are we going to carry that with us? Think about what all of the Israelites must have felt in that moment....God's power, majesty, glory revealed to them up on top of the mountain...they had to prepare for 3 days just to be able to look upon it. Then, it seems they forgot it almost instantly.

That is when God said..ok...lets build a Tabernacle. Lets created a portable Mt. Sinai.

At the foot of Mt Sinai they had built an altar. Before they could go up...they had to wash...When they got to Mt. Sinai there was a burning bush....Branches on fire that never burned up...The Menorah...Then front and center..there is a cloud...a cloud of incense...

As we go in further...we see that God has indeed come down...and He speaks to Moses just like He did on Mt Sinai.

God said to them...wherever you go...whatever you experience...I will go with you...and everything that we did on Mt Sinai we can still do together wherever you go. It is interesting that after the Tabernacle was built, Moses never ascended Mt Sinai again. Because he didn't need to...it was here...in the Tabernacle. In fact, we don't even know what Mountain it is anymore because it doesn't matter. Who cares? God doesn't live there anymore.

This was critical for the Hebrews back then and it is just as critical for us today. We must be able to take with us...our intimacy...our relationship...with God. We need a portable place where we hear His voice, understand His leading, and celebrate in our love. They needed their experience on Mt Sinai and so do we.

If we fail to spend time in the Holy Place with God....we lose the fire of Mt Sinai. Without intimacy...without time in the private place...all relationships loose the fire. We call it growing cold.

I believe that in a Spiritual sense..many believers have made vows to Jesus...but have not spent time in the intimate place with Him. I believe that those who enter into the Holy of Holies in their relationship with Jesus...describe that experience as being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Ed teaches on this every Sunday morning.

Another image I am going to let God show you.

Exodus 25:1 (ESV) 1 The Lord said to Moses,

Exodus 30:11 (ESV) 11 The Lord said to Moses,

Exodus 30:17 (ESV) 17 The Lord said to Moses,

Exodus 30:22 (ESV) 22 The Lord said to Moses,

Exodus 30:34 (ESV) 34 The Lord said to Moses,

Exodus 31:1 (ESV) 1 The Lord said to Moses,

Exodus 31:12 (ESV) 12 And the Lord said to Moses,

Did you notice how many there were? 7..the number of perfection and completion. Can you think of another thing that God did in seven speakings?

Creation right? Do you remember the seventh speaking in Creation?

Genesis 2:2–3 (ESV) 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Do you know what our seventh is in the building of the Tabernacle?

Exodus 31:12–18 (ESV) 12 And the Lord said to Moses, 13 "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. 14 You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you.16 Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever.

God is about to connect some dots.

Why did God create the earth and create us? He wanted a place where.....He could dwell with us.

God's Original Tabernacle....was the earth...His creation. Everything about Him was reflected in his creation...His majesty, complexity, simplicity, creativity, order, structure, provision, glory, ...and it was a place where He could dwell with Man. In fact, that is exactly what He did with Adam and Eve. God's presence was everywhere. Everything was very good...and the entire universe was His tabernacle. His dwelling place with man. The Psalmist understood this...

Psalm 19:1–6 (ESV) 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, 5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Sun...God has set a tent...It comes out like a bridegroom leaving His chamber...Look at the command that God gave to Adam and Eve...

Genesis 1:27–28 (ESV) 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it,"

God told Adam and Eve....I have created all of this space...now you go and fill it. But at this they failed....they filled it with sin....with rebellion....with a rejection of God. So the earth could no longer be the dwelling place of Holy God....He would need a new creation...a new place...a new tent....a Tabernacle.

The Jews would have seen this parallel. God is making a new creation. The Tabernacle is a new creation just like earth was a new creation. It was created for the same reason...God wanted to dwell with man.

So it is as if God came down again and said..."Let's try this again" Except this time, you make the space....AND I WILL FILL IT.

It was simple for God to make a place for us....God has just spoken 7 "Let there be...."

Much harder for man to make a place for God. 50 chapters and an entire year to complete it. God gave the new blueprint to Moses....We will make a new creation...a temporary tent...that will foreshadow the final creation to come.

So...with great effort...with God's direction, guidance and strength....they finished building His Tabernacle...His dwelling place. when they had finished building that space...the Tabernacle....HE FILLED IT.

When the time came, God filled the Tabernacle...the space that they had created for Him. PHOTO 6

Leviticus 9:22–24 (ESV) 22 Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. 23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. 24 And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the PHOTO 7 burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Years later God would direct Solomon to build a temple in Jerusalem that replaced the Tabernacle.

PHOTO 8 When the time came.....God filled it too..

2 Chronicles 7:1–3 (ESV) 1 As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. PHOTO 9

2 And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. 3 When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

HE IS GOOD. His love endures forever....Notice something critical here. When they experienced the presence of God...they were not fearful of condemnation or judgement....They were in awe because His Goodness and Love were so overwhelming. When God fills spaces that we create...He drops a love bomb on us.

Years later...on another day at that very Temple....Man had another space for God to Fill....Jesus had created a place in His followers..for God to fill.

Acts 2:1–4 (ESV) 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, PHOTO 10 they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In previous sermons, I have spoken about why I believe this event occurred at the temple mount and not in an upper room. The Spirit of God over them...just like the ball of Fire over the Tabernacle....and from that ball...Tongues of fire came down to rest on every person...all 120 of them. God was once again choosing His place to dwell.

Acts 7:44–48 (ESV) 44 "Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. 45 Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, 46 who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. 47 But it was Solomon who built a house for him. 48 Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (ESV) 16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ... For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

From the Garden....To Mt Sinai....To the Tabernacle....To the Temple...To Jesus...to YOU.
Spaces created from the beginning of mankind....Spaces that God filled. But there is only one reason why God does not dwell with someone.

Exodus 25:8 (ESV) 8 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

What if Moses and the Israelites had not built the Tabernacle? The only way God does not dwell with you...is if you refuse to create space for Him.

Are you experiencing the presence of God in your life every day? Are you growing in a deeper understanding of who He is? Are you abiding in the private place of His love? Are you in the presence of God every day to the point that all you can do is shout out...HE IS GOOD! If that does not describe your spiritual walk....And that is supposed to be the norm for believers every day...but if that is not you...let me share with you a sobering truth. If you have no space for God, He has no place with you.

If you haven't created space for God in your life....HE WILL NOT FILL IT! He says it this way....

John 15:5 (ESV) 5 for apart from me you can do nothing.

So, is there space for God...in your family....not just devotions, praying and Bible reading....is there space? Is there space every day...in everything that you do...for God? In your school? In your church? In your heart? God wants to live with us. And He asks us to create the space because it doesn't work the other way for sinful people. Don't know how to be in eh

Those who create space of God every day...Experience His filling of your spirit every day. How do you and I approach Holy God in our daily quiet time? We spiritually walk through the Tabernacle.

We leave our sinful world...and experience once again Jesus on the cross...innocent blood shed for us...We come humbled and with thanks for all that He has done.

We allow the Holy Spirit to show us the truth of who we really are...To reveal the truth of God's Word so that we can agree with Him and confess our sins...while the Spirit cleanses us in forgiveness. He cleanses us each day...our hands and feet...because we are already clean through baptism of faith.

We ask others to help us examine ourselves and we confess our sins to one another. We are about to go into the Holy Place...Like a bride...everything must be the best it can be...We are not perfect but we are cleansed and our hearts burn for the Presence of Jesus.

We leave condemnation...guilt...shame...performance...and the other lies...in the drain of the laver....washed down in the forgiveness and blood of Christ. Like a bride running to her groom...your Spirit can't wait to go home. When you enter into the Holy Place...your soul is Home...you are Home...You are dwelling with your Savior....

You are not afraid of Him...You worship Him....Your soul screams at you...I am home...I am Home....and He is....He is SO GOOD! HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

Every day...in your quiet time...You enter into the presence of God....and it is like coming home..PHOTO 11 .You are right where you were created to be....You are a spiritual being....connecting Spiritually to your Father. Once again you are enveloped in His love bomb and all you can do is cry out HE IS GOOD. He is soooo good.

If you create that space every day...You can't help but be transformed. Because He will fill it. Whatever sinful desires that you had moments before....drown in His love and Goodness.

He literally changes who you are....You find yourself no longer tempted by the things of the world because you have experienced the incredible things of God. You leave your quiet place each day....literally glowing because you have been in His presence....

And you know you will be back there again soon. You don't want to do anything that keeps you from the intimacy that you hope for tomorrow's visit. So you find...that your desires begin to align with His....The presence of God is like a drug...When you experience it...all you ever want is more. You will do anything...to be in that place again.

The Presence of God is the greatest addiction on the planet. You crave it...You can't get enough of it...You will give anything for it...You will come back for it over and over again..you can't live without it...as soon as you are apart..you want it again...it consumes your thoughts....it drives your intentions...it defines everything around you and about you. You might as well face it...you are addicted to His Love.

He is good...you are good...everything is right...you are exactly who you were created to be...in the place where you were created to be...in the presence of who created you.... to be.

You have spiritually come home. It is a shadow of the final dwelling place that we will have with God. It shows us just a taste of His goodness...We experience the heavenly things on earth when we create space for Him.

You and I were created with addictive desires. We all have chased a false idol...a drug...a drink...power...lust...greed...envy...pride...arrogance.....you name it we have been addicted to it.

If you want to be Free at Last..If you want to experience the rest of your human life the way God planned for His children to live....

Create space in your life....and create a full force unstoppable addiction to Jesus Christ...

You are God's temple. There is no where else on earth where He dwells. His presence...His fire..Left the throne in Heaven....Fell on Mt Sinai...Led them by night...Fell on the Tabernacle...Fell on the Temple...Walked on Earth...Fell at Pentecost and now has slammed smack dab right into you and me.

How dare we tell Him we have no time for Him. How dare we fail to create space in our lives for Him to fill. If you build it...He will come...You create a sanctuary God says...and I will come dwell with you.

We are going to spend a few moment praying...thinking...confessing....repenting...the altar is open...God want's to work on the heart of Remnant. Maybe you need to surrender to God for the very first time....maybe your surrender to God hasn't been for a very long time...Now is the time to come home. He has been waiting for you....in the Holy Place...at home...where you and I belong. Let's pray.

Reflective Time: Softly and Tenderly.