



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

Concealed to Revealed: The Tabernacle

OPENING & PRAYER:

Today, we explored the profound significance of the Tabernacle of Moses, not just as an ancient structure, but as a living revelation of God's desire to dwell among His people. From the very beginning, God's heart has been to be present with us, and the tabernacle is a powerful type and shadow that points forward to Christ and, ultimately, to the work He accomplishes in us. Every detail, from the outer court to the Holy of Holies, is intentionally designed to reveal deeper spiritual truths about our relationship with God.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. Continue to guide me as we piece together Your Word throughout the Bible. Bring clarity and understanding as we move through Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. **Genesis 37:2**

And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. **Exodus 25:8**

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **Hebrews 4:14**

"I am the Gate; whoever enters through me will be saved." **John 10:9**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **Titus 2:11**

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" **John 1:29**

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

You are already clean because of the Word I have spoken to you. **John 15:3**

I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness. **John 8:12**

I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry. **John 6:35**

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **Hebrews 7:25**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:25-27

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. **Psalms 119:105**

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. **1 Corinthians 11:28-29**

Let my prayer be set before You as incense,
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. **Psalms 141:2**

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **Revelation 5:8**

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, **Hebrews 10:19-20**

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **1 Corinthians 6:19**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

GO DEEPER:

The journey through the tabernacle begins at the brazen altar, where sacrifices were made. This altar points directly to Jesus, the perfect and sinless sacrifice, who laid down His life for us. The inspection was never on the person bringing the offering, but on the sacrifice itself—a beautiful picture of how our acceptance before God is based on Christ's perfection, not our own. The next step, the bronze laver, was a place of washing and reflection. Just as the priests would see themselves cleansed in the water, we are cleansed by the washing of the Word and the blood of Jesus, moving us closer to God.

Entering the inner court, we encounter the golden lampstand, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense. The lampstand represents Jesus as the light of the world and the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit. The showbread, unleavened and pierced, is a clear foreshadowing of Christ as the bread of life, broken for us. The altar of incense, with its sweet aroma, symbolizes the prayers of the saints and Christ's ongoing intercession for us.

Passing through the final veil, we reach the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat reside. Here, the blood was sprinkled, signifying that only through Christ's sacrifice can we boldly enter God's presence. The contents of the Ark—Aaron's rod, manna, and the Ten Commandments—speak of God's authority, provision, and law, all fulfilled in Jesus and now written on our hearts.

Ultimately, the tabernacle is not just a historical artifact but a living reality for every believer. We are now the dwelling place of God's Spirit, called to present ourselves as living sacrifices, washed by the Word, illuminated by the Spirit, nourished by Christ, and welcomed into the very presence of God. The journey from the outer court to the Holy of Holies mirrors our own spiritual journey: justification, sanctification, and glorification—body, soul, and spirit—brought into perfect fellowship with our Creator.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God's Desire to Dwell Among Us. From Eden to Revelation, God's heart has always been to dwell with His people. The tabernacle was not just a temporary tent in the wilderness, but a prophetic declaration that God wants to be intimately present in our lives. Even when sin complicated the relationship, God made a way through sacrifice and ultimately through Christ to restore that closeness. **[06:08]**

2. The Sacrifice is the Standard, Not the Sinner. At the brazen altar, the focus was never on the worthiness of the person bringing the offering, but on the perfection of the sacrifice itself. This is a profound truth for us: our acceptance before God is not based on our own merit, but on the flawless sacrifice of Jesus. When we understand this, we are freed from striving and can rest in the finished work of Christ. **[10:02]**

3. The Word and the Spirit Cleanse and Illuminate. The bronze laver was a place of washing and reflection, symbolizing how the Word of God cleanses us and reveals our true selves. The lampstand, fueled by oil, represents the Holy Spirit bringing the Word to life, illuminating our path and empowering us to live in God's presence. Without the continual work of the Word and Spirit, our spiritual lives remain dim and stagnant. **[32:16]**

4. Christ Fulfills Every Element—And Now Lives in Us. Every article in the tabernacle—altar, laver, lampstand, showbread, incense, ark—finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. He is the sacrifice, the cleanser, the light, the bread, the intercessor, and the mercy seat. Now, as believers, we are called to embody these realities: to be living sacrifices, to be washed by the Word, to shine with the Spirit, and to carry God's presence into the world. **[25:55]**

5. The Tabernacle Reveals Our Spiritual Journey. The progression from the outer court (justification), to the inner court (sanctification), to the Holy of Holies (glorification) mirrors our own walk with God—body, soul, and spirit being brought into alignment with Him. We are not just saved from something, but saved for a purpose: to become the very dwelling place of God, reflecting His authority, power, and provision to the world. **[35:30]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. According to Exodus 25:8, what was God's stated purpose for instructing Moses to build the tabernacle?
2. The sermon emphasized that our acceptance before God is based on Jesus' perfect sacrifice, not our own efforts. Are there areas in your life where you still feel like you have to "earn" God's approval? How can you rest more fully in Christ's finished work?
3. The sermon mentions that we are now the "dwelling place of God's Spirit." What does it mean for believers to be the new tabernacle?
4. What are the three items that were placed inside the Ark of the Covenant, and what did each represent?
5. The tabernacle was built so God could dwell among His people. In what ways do you sense God's desire to be present in your daily life? Are there areas where you feel distant from Him?

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. As we read through what is to come, we put our faith and trust in You. There may be questions, but when we lean on You, those questions seem small and insignificant. Thank you for guiding us through this world and guiding us to You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."