Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 36: Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 36. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a prayer point. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

Jesus said, “*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:6

Today we will explore the veiled entrances from one section of the Tabernacle to the next.

#### The Way

The only way into the Outer Court of the Tabernacle was through the gate. All Israelites were invited and could worship in the Outer Court. This entrance or gate was placed on the East side of the Outer Court perimeter. It was the gate by which all men would enter. This curtained entrance was 30 feet wide, woven of blue, purple and scarlet fabric. We have seen the significance of the colors, but let me remind you of the beautiful representations: blue signifies heaven, communion, and revelation; purple signifies the royalty and authority of Jesus; and scarlet speaks to sacrifice and blood shed. The white fine linen signifies righteousness and holiness. We will call this entrance “the way” for there was no other entrance. One could not go under the white fine linen curtains around the rest of the structure, nor could one climb over. No, the only way in was through this beautiful curtained gate. Jesus tells us in John 14:6 that HE is the WAY. He is not just one way, but the **only** way. Just as the Israelites had one way into the Outer Court of the Tabernacle, to begin our journey as a believer or Christian, we must go through the gate.

One of my favorite books is the allegory, Pilgrim’s Progress (in Today’s English) by John Bunyan and it illustrates this truth well. Christian (the main character) comes to the cross of Jesus (the gate) and when he approaches the cross, his burden loosens, drops from his shoulders and he experiences a joy and lightness in his heart, because his burdened has been lifted. As he leaves the cross to walk along the path, he meets two other men who have climbed over a wall to enter the path.

*“Christian: Why did you not come in at the gate at the beginning of the way? You know it is written in the book by the Builder of the road: ‘He that cometh not in by the door, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber (John 10:1)’. They told him that to go to the gate from where they lived was considered too far by all and that the usual way was to take a shortcut and climb over the wall, as they had done.*

*Christian: But will it not be counted a trespass and a violation of instructions by the Lord of the City where you are going? They said he need not trouble his head about that, for they had a long-standing custom where they lived to guide them in their practice, and they could produce plenty of testimony of its practicality over a period of more than a thousand years.*

*Christian: But will it stand the final test? They thought so. They said that a custom of such long-standing most certainly had been accepted and, without a doubt, would be admitted by the impartial Judge at the end of the way. ‘And,’ they reasoned, ‘we are in the same way you are in. What does it matter how we got in? If we are in, we are in. In what way is your position better?’*

*Christian: I walk by the rule of the Lord of the way; you follow your own fancy: the crude invention of uninspired men. You are called thieves already by the Lord of the way. Therefore I doubt that you will be found true men at the end. You came in by yourselves without His direction, and you shall go out by yourselves without His mercy.” (p. 42)*

In John 10:9, Jesus says, “*I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find safe pasture.”* He is our gate; our entrance to Salvation. This is the beginning of our life in Christ, our eternal life. We enter through the gate, Jesus, for He is the Way.

This entrance can be compared for us to entering or gaining access into the entryway of a home. You must enter by the gate (front door) and fellowship can happen in the entry way. The Lord is drawing us, first into fellowship with Him in the entryway. Come through the gate. Pass through the curtain. Open the door to the One who is drawing you to Himself. For there is no other way. Church membership does not get you through the gate, being good does not allow you to pass through the gate, giving money won’t do it, helping with the injustices of the world will not allow you entrance. The only way is through the gate and His Name is Jesus.

#### The Truth

The structure of the Tabernacle was called the Inner Court. It held the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Only the priests were allowed into the inner court where they ministered to the Lord. This veiled entrance into the Holy Place was designed with blue, purple and scarlet with cherubim woven into them. This entrance leads us into a reality of Truth; a truth of who God is and who we are in Him. This is a deeper level of intimacy. The Holy Place held the Golden Lampstand, which illuminated the Table of Showbread and the Golden Altar of Incense. The room would be dark, except for the light of the Lampstand. Light = Truth. John 8:32 says, “*Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”* The word truth is the Greek word “aletheia” meaning unveiled reality. The Lord opens His Truth to us, as we commune with Him.

This entrance for us, into the Holy Place can be compared to entering the kitchen. This is where relationship happens as we break bread with one another. Kitchen intimacy is deeper than entryway intimacy. Not everyone is invited to come on into the kitchen.

This is where true friendship grows. Truth is revealed to our hearts and we are transformed more and more into the image of Christ. The priests were in no hurry while they ministered in the holy place. They tarried before the Lord in this sanctuary, enjoying His presence. Friendship takes time. 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us, ‘*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness, with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”* In the Holy Place, the place of intimacy, the Spirit of the Lord brings forth revelation of who He is and who we are in Him. We are strengthened and equipped and loved by the Father.

#### LIFE

The veil into the Most Holy Place, separated even the Priests from the Shekinah Glory of God, the place where His presence dwelt. LIFE is represented in this veil. God Himself dwelt between the Cherubim on the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place (resting on the Ark of the Covenant). Only the High Priest could enter into the Most Holy Place through the woven veil and that happened only once a year, on the Day of Atonement. Moses was the only one who could approach God at any time. He would meet with God to hear what He had to say to the people and he would talk with God like a man speaks with a friend. Moses was the only one who had access to the Holy of Holies, which held God’s presence.

Cherubim were woven into this veil of blue, purple and scarlet. The Cherubim were the powerful creatures and guards of the MOST HOLY ONE! Their presence announced God’s presence (just beyond the veil) and they protected His presence. To see the Cherubim on this veil would signify the magnificent presence of God Almighty. This was the One who, in the wilderness, led the Israelites by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire. They have witnessed His power in the wilderness by a cloud covering the Mountain of God when Moses visited with God to receive the instructions for the people and the pattern for the Tabernacle (Exodus 24). “*To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain,” (Exodus 24:17).* The people had witnessed the miracles of God in the wilderness, beginning with the crossing of the Red Sea, where God parted the waters and provided dry land for them to pass through to nourishment given to sustain them in the desert (manna & quail), water had been miraculously turned from bitter to sweet. Oh, these Israelites knew the power in the presence of God.

The Most Holy Place is a place of the deepest level of intimacy. This entrance can be correlated to the intimacy between a husband and wife. Many may be invited into the entryway, less will be invited into the kitchen to build relationship, but the intimacy between one man and one woman is the intimacy of the bedroom. No one *knows* my husband, Greg the way I *know* him. And no one *knows* me the way that Greg *knows* me. This is LIFE, intimacy. It is a relationship that can withstand any pressure from the outside or inside. This is the deepest place of intimacy. And God invites us to have that level of intimacy with Him. Hebrews 10:19-20 says, “*Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.”* The curtain was torn from top to bottom at the moment Jesus died on the cross, giving everyone access to the Most Holy Place. “*And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split open.” (Matthew 27:50-51)* What an event that was! The thick curtain (4-8 inches wide) was torn from top to bottom. God can now have a relationship with man that is full of intimacy. No more separation. No more blood sacrifice needed. Jesus paid the price and it is done!

God desires us to sit with Him, seek His face, love Him, hear from Him and go to Him when we are in need. He wants relationship with us. The cry of Moses in Exodus 33:18 is the prayer for this level of intimacy, “Show me Your Glory”. No matter how much I have of God, it is never enough. There is a hunger that runs deep and I stir my hunger for more and more of knowing God. This is the most holy place. The invitation is made to all, but only a few enter through this veil to seek God at the deepest level.

**Prayer Point:** Spend some time in prayer thanking Jesus for being the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE in your life. Cry out for more of who He is as Moses did, “Show me Your Glory”!

“*Jesus answered, ‘I am the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6*

Jesus, you are THE WAY:

Jesus, you are THE TRUTH:

Jesus, you are THE LIFE: