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

Chapter 37: Tarry in the Inner Court

**□ 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 37. 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.

As the priests stepped inside the Inner Court into the Holy Place, passing through the veil, it was illuminated by the Golden Lampstand. The only light that shone in this “secret place” was the light of the lampstand.

The Lampstand had a center shaft with six branches connected to the center shaft (three branches on each side). Symbolically we can see Jesus as the center shaft of the lampstand and the branches on one side represent the Old Testament with the Old Covenant and the branches on the other side represent the New Testament with the New Covenant. They meet at Jesus. He is the fulfillment and completion of the two.

At the top of the Golden Lampstand were seven lamps. This Lampstand was different than a candle. A candle has its own source of light and eventually burns itself out because it runs out of energy. We see too many Christians living their life like a candle, using their own source of power. Eventually they burn out. Have you experienced this? I know that I have. I am a “doer”, so I can very quickly fall into the trap of being a candle (using my own energy), instead of being tapped into the Holy Spirit.

The lamps on this Lampstand were filled with olive oil. It was part of the priest’s ministry to keep the lamps burning continually by filling them. The oil is representative of the Holy Spirit. We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit in order to burn continually. Ephesians 5:18 says to us, “*Be filled with the Holy Spirit.*” This verb form for “filled” is a continually filling. You could say the passage like this: *Be being filled with the Holy Spirit.*  Every morning, before you get out of bed, ask the Lord to fill you fresh with the power of His Holy Spirit. We cry out, “More Lord, more. We want more of You.”

The parable of the ten virgins speaks to the lamps and the oil. “*At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming and they all became drowsy and fell asleep…”* (Matthew 25:1-5). This passage is a continuation of chapter 24, in which Jesus speaks about the signs of the end of the age. The lamps represent life and the oil speaks to the time spent in the secret place with Jesus, the place of intimacy. This is the place where we are filled with His Holy Spirit. We must cultivate that time, so that the lamp is filled with oil. The wise are those who seek Jesus as the priority. They are those who desire Him above all else. Their main objective is to experience His presence. The foolish are those who put their own life and desires before their time with the Lord. They will forfeit His presence. In these days, as we approach the coming of the King of Kings, let’s be wise. Let our obsession be Jesus!

No dimensions were given for the size of the Golden Lampstand constructed for the tabernacle. This speaks to the immeasurable work of the Triune God. God is light. Jesus is the light sent to all men, and the Holy Spirit is the oil that lights our lamps, so we can shine brightly among the earth.

We are to shine the light of Christ brightly. Matthew 5:14-16 says to us, “*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”* We are the light-bearers. “*You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness,” (*I Thessalonians 5:5).

Light speaks of holiness, purity and truth.

* The first words spoken by God in the Bible are “Let there be light.” And there was light! (Genesis 1:3) God spoke it and it came to be.
* God is light. He lives in unapproachable light (I Timothy 6:16).
* He wraps Himself in light as with a garment (Psalm 104:2).
* His Word is a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).
* The unfolding of His Word gives light (Psalm 119:130).
* His light is shed upon the righteous (Psalm 97:4).
* God keeps my lamp burning & turns my darkness to light (Psalm 18:28).
* By His light I walk through the darkness (Job 29:3).
* Let us walk in the light of the Lord (Isaiah 2:5).
* The Lord will be the everlasting light (Isaiah 60:19).
* Light dwells with him (Daniel 2:22).
* The people living in darkness have seen a great light (Matthew 4:16).
* A light for revelation to the gentiles (Luke 2:32).
* I (Jesus) am the light of the world (John 8:12).
* The Word is the light of men (John 1:4).
* The Lord is my light (Psalm 27:1).
* Put your trust in the Light (Jesus) so you may become sons of light (John 12:36).
* Light has come into the world (John 3:19).
* Jesus is the light of the world (John 9:5).
* Father of heavenly lights (James 1:17).
* God called you out of darkness into His wonderful light (I Peter 2:9).
* The description of the heavenly city where we will dwell tells us there is no need for the sun, for the glory of God gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp (Rev. 21:23). We will walk by its light (Rev. 3:24).

The Lampstand in the Tabernacle was both the LIGHT and the Light-bearer. We, as His lampstands reflect His marvelous light! The light does not originate with us. We reflect His light into the areas of influence where He has placed us. Light exposes the darkness and provides the way out of darkness! Light reveals things as they really are. Light promotes life. Light awakens us.

Opposite of the Golden Lampstand, inside the Holy Place, sits the Table of Showbread. This is the first time in scripture from the creation of the world to the wilderness that God uses this word “table”. It is from the Hebrew word *shulchan* which means “a meal or spread or a place of communion and fellowship”. What an inviting picture we have of the Table of Showbread. How often in our home is fellowship done around a meal or even sitting around a table, munching on snacks. It speaks to relationship. From the beginning, God has been about relationship. He desires a relationship with us. Relationships were his idea. In the Garden of Eden, after creating man from the dust of the earth, God knew that man needed a companion. Adam didn’t say to God, “You know, this would be a whole lot more fun if I had someone to talk with.” God designed Eve to be a companion to Adam. Relationships. Fellowship. Communion. This all happens around a table. In the beauty and stillness of the Holy Place, God is calling the priests to relationship, fellowship and communion with Him.

With every table, come accessories. This is my favorite part about the table. My husband would say it is a weakness of mine. When I go shopping with my mom & sister, Greg sends me with a stern warning: “Do not come home with anymore dishes for the table. We don’t have room for the dishes we have.” I have to say that this is my favorite vessel that is found in the Tabernacle, because of my love for relationships, fellowship and communion with God and others. So often, our home is open to many~ gathering around the table. With every holiday comes a set of dishes for that holiday, along with placements or charger plates to match. Candles and candy dishes or serving trays are also a must have for the various seasons! When I call my family and friends to “Come to the table” it means so much more than just eating. It is the life-line of relationship. That is seen in this Table of Showbread. It was the life-line of the priests’ relationship with God and with one another.

The accessories on this table included: dishes and plates, incense cups and bowls and pitchers. Exodus 37:16 says (NKJ), “*He made of pure gold the utensils which were on the table: its dishes, its cups, its bowls and its pitchers for pouring.”* The dishes and plates were used for carrying the bread into the Holy Place and for holding the bread on the table.

Incense cups were filled with frankincense which was set out as a memorial portion to the Lord and burned on the Altar of Incense (Leviticus 24:7) when the priests ate the bread at the Table of Showbread in the light of the Golden Lampstand. Imagine that scene. The priests ate at the table which represented relationship, fellowship and communion, in the illumination of the lampstand, which represents for us the Holy Spirit’s anointing, while the frankincense was burned at the Altar of Incense. Frankincense was the purest incense. When it was burned, it produced a white smoke symbolizing prayers, worship and praise ascending before the presence of God Almighty.

Bowls and pitchers contained wine, which was poured out in connection with the eating of the bread on the table before the Lord (Numbers 28:7). This “drink offering” was used in relationship to the Table of Showbread. The bread and wine foreshadow the New Testament table of communion. Jesus’ life (in the bread) was broken for us and His blood (in the wine) was poured out for us (Matthew 26:26-28, I Corinthians 11:23-25).

Twelve breads sat in two rows on the Table of Showbread. It was to always be before the Lord. “*Put the bread of the Presence on this table to be before me at all times,” Exodus 25:30.* Showbread, which is Hebrew for “bread of presence” or “bread of faces” was before the presence of YHWH who dwelt in the Holy of Holies above the cherubim. This Showbread was a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, who is the true bread of life, giving sustenance to all who partake of Him. Showbread means “to show; to declare; to tell forth” which was speaking of the Bread of Life, Jesus, who was to come. Jesus Christ was born in the city called Bethlehem, which means “house of bread”. God doesn’t miss a detail!

The bread was eaten by the priests, on the Sabbath in the Holy Place (Leviticus 24:5-9). We too are to “feed” on the Bread of Life, Jesus, to receive spiritual and physical sustenance. He is our source of life! The bread and wine that sat on the Table of Showbread represents the fellowship, relationship and communion that the priests had with the Lord.

Jesus is the Bread of Heaven. He, the sustainer of our physical and spiritual life came down from heaven to dwell among us. As we spend time with Jesus, we will hunger for more of the Bread of Heaven.

How hungry are you?

Matthew 6:11 tells us “*Give us this day our daily bread.”*  This is a continual, daily need. As the Israelites were given manna from heaven daily, so we too are to partake of the manna from heaven (Jesus) daily. The Israelites could not keep any manna for the following day (except for the Sabbath). They needed fresh manna daily. So too for us, we cannot rely on the manna from a month ago or a week ago or even yesterday. We need a fresh supply of manna daily.

In the book of John, chapter 6 we see Jesus as:

* True bread of heaven (6:32)
* Bread of God who gives life to the world (6:33)
* Bread of life (6:35)
* Bread of life (6:48)
* Bread that comes down from heaven (6:50)
* Living bread (6:51)
* Bread is my flesh (6:51)
* Bread that came down from heaven (6:58)
* Feed on this bread (6:58)

Jesus is the bread of heaven. As we feed on this bread, we are strengthened in our inner man spiritually and physically.

Prayer Point:

1. Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:18 to “...be filled with the Holy Spirit”. In the quiet of this moment, invite the Holy Spirit to fill you more. Make this a daily practice. We can never have enough or too much of the Spirit of God!
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you more of a hunger for God and His presence. He loves you. He wants you. He longs for a deeper relationship with you.

On the diagram:

1. Draw the Inner Court on your diagram. (The outer court of the Tabernacle is outlined on the diagram). The Inner Court should be near the back half of the Tabernacle outline with space around the entire place. This is a rectangular space. The Holy Place of the Inner Court is the largest area (it makes up two-thirds of the Inner Court space). The Holy of Holies is a square.
2. Draw the Lampstand in the space inside the Holy Place on the south side (Exodus 40:24).
3. Draw a rectangle to represent the Table of Showbread on the north side of the Holy Place, across from the Golden Lampstand.