



Weekly Devotional

Tabernacle Series #14

The Laver and More

“And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the looking glasses of the women assembling . . .” (Exodus 38:8).

Distorting mirrors were first introduced to many of us at the circus. The concave mirror, known also as “The Fat Mirror,” made you look bigger or heavier; the convex mirror, sometimes called “The Skinny Mirror,” made you look smaller or thinner; and the concave-convex mirror, or “The Silly Mirror,” so distorted your appearance you didn’t even look like yourself.

As stated in the above text, the laver of the Old Testament Tabernacle was formed from the “looking glasses of the women.” Of course, their mirrors were not made of glass as ours today, but of polished brass, or copper. Once constructed, the laver was basically one big bowl-shaped mirror. Here, the priests witnessed their physical reflection as they washed their hands and feet.

Having already addressed the matter of the water in the laver depicting the water of God’s word, a further emphasis is set before us in the mirror-like basin. Not only is there cleansing in the Word, but there is reflection in the Word. In the cleansing process, we see how we really are, how God looks at us. With the laver before us, may we understand some of the further lessons that relate to the Christian experience.

The priests looked toward the laver! Once the sacrifices were offered, the priests did not stand aimlessly around the altar. Rather, they turned their attention to the ministry of the brass laver. From the Christian perspective, we are not worshippers of the cross. And, we are not to constantly muse upon our sins, sins for which the Lamb died. We must leave them with Christ, the acceptable offering for sin, and move forward in worship.

The priests looked into the laver! The big mirror-laver in the outer court projected the image of each priest. As the laver showed him himself, so the Word shows us ourselves in the sanctifying process. As we are confronted with the sin-question at the altar, or the cross, so we are confronted with the self-question at the laver, or in the Word. The view is not always pleasant, but it leads to our cleansing.

The priests looked beyond the laver! These servants did not stand around the altar; neither did they stand around the laver. The holy place was beyond the laver. With the discovery of our many blemishes, we may be tempted to further examine and mourn our failures. Instead of mulling over self, “Let us go on!” (Hebrews 6:1). Ah, there is more for us in Christ! Beyond the brass of the outer court is the gold of the inner sanctuary!