

Dare to Draw Near

RESPONDING TO GOD'S INVITATION

Lesson 2 Reflection: Salvation and the Bronze Altar

Review



We started our journey this week daring to draw near by taking our first steps into the outer court of the Tabernacle. As you entered the only gate, immediately front and center you faced the Bronze Altar. This was the largest and most prominent article in the compound. It was about 7½ feet square and 4½ feet tall. It had a grate in its center under which a fire burned continuously. Bronze is

a picture of judgment. It can be taken to very high temperatures before it melts. This is where sin was judged by God. The Israelites brought their animals for the sacrifices required by the Old Testament law to the Bronze Altar. Leviticus 17:11 states, "Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin."

The altar was always open for business, whoever wanted to come and deal with their sins was always welcome. The Israelites brought the required animal, laid their hands on its head symbolizing their identification with this substitute and named and confessed their sin. The animal was then slaughtered as the priests caught the blood in a basin which they later offered as an atonement for sins. The animal's body was placed on the altar and burned.

The Bronze Altar undoubtedly pictures the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, the place where He shed His blood as our sacrifice for sin. The cross is the first place we must come to if we are going to dare to draw near to God. You cannot slip under the white linen curtains and go in a side door of the tabernacle. You cannot bypass the bronze altar if you want to approach a holy God. This is where the problem of our personal sins are dealt with. Jesus is our substitute offering. It is vital that we make that transaction ---- give Him your sins, He gives you His righteousness.



In this lesson's video Part One, Kathy and Anne share their testimonies of how they came know to the Lord Jesus. Special guest Lillian de Fin from South Africa also shares her story of salvation, along with teaching from the Word of God in Part Two.

Preview

We don't stay at the Bronze Altar forever! We don't receive salvation again and again. Once we have dealt with our sins, they are forgiven as far as the East is from the West – now we can move deeper into the tabernacle compound, deeper into our relationship with the Lord.

Next week we will consider the second article in the tabernacle, the Bronze Laver, the place of confession/repentance/cleansing– the place that offers us the way back to God when we have gone our own way after we have become believers. **Chrissie Shaheen**, from **The Tent Ministry** in Israel, will join us as our special guest. You are in for a treat!

Reflect

Prayer Exercise:

Take some time to watch Lesson Two, Part 2 video as **Lil de Fin** leads us in a prayer for salvation. If you have never come to saving faith in Jesus Christ, this is the most important prayer you will ever pray. Please watch the video and join Lil in that prayer. Then, be sure to share with Kathy or Anne or some other believer what you have prayed this prayer. It is important to mark this day and celebrate!



Homework:

Journaling is a great way to draw nearer to the Lord.



Take the time this week to journal your own salvation story. In just a few paragraphs tell,

- 1. What was your life like without Jesus?***
- 2. What made you decide to put your faith in Him?***
- 3. How has your life changed since your salvation?***

Practice telling your story and ask the Lord to bring someone in your life this week that you can share it with. Get ready!

Then, journal a prayer to the Lord thanking Him for drawing near to you through the blood of Jesus! And LISTEN for what He has to say back to you, and journal that down too.

Here's a sample of what my prayer journal sounds like (Anne):

Lord Jesus,

Wow, giving my testimony the other day reminded me of how much trouble You always go to draw me nearer to You! Thank You! Thank you for Jesus and for filling me with Your Spirit! Thank you for always being with me, even when I don't know it, and even when I don't want You to be near me at all. I remember all times.....

Here's what I heard when I stopped to listen:

Dear Anne, I never get tired of hearing you talk about Me and the times we have spent together. Keep being brave. I'm always listening....

Just pour out your heart to Him with good ole paper and ink – you'll be surprised how easy it is once you get going. And you'll be surprised by what you can "hear" Him say as you are writing.

Lecture Notes:

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