Praying through the Tabernacle
Exodus 29:38-46

38 "Now this *is* what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs
of the first year, day by day continually. 39 One lamb you
shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer
at twilight. 40 With the one lamb shall be one-tenth *of an*
ephah of flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil,
and one-fourth of a hin of wine *as* a drink offering. 41 And
the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; and you shall offer
with it the grain offering and the drink offering, as in the
morning, for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the
LORD. 42 *This shall be* a continual burnt offering throughout
your generations *at* the **door of the tabernacle of meeting**
before the LORD, **where I will meet you to speak with you**.
43 And there I will **meet with the children of Israel**, and *the*
tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory. 44 So I will
consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also
consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as
priests. 45 **I will dwell among the children of Israel** and will
be their God. 46 And they **shall know that I *am* the LORD**
their God, who brought them up out of the land of
Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I *am* the LORD their
God. – Pray

I have been walking with Jesus now for 51 years.

A)One of the things that has always amazed me – about the Christian life is this:

B)Not only did God go to great lengths to save us – Son leaving heaven – earth – Cross – Rez

C)But it's realizing that God saved us in order to have a relationship with us. –

D)Be a Father – 1 John 3:1 Behold…amazed… children
1)Not a Lord – Not a King – Father
2)Not subjects, or servants – But Kids

D)Not servants but friends

Now we have been in this section of the book of Exodus dealing with the instructions for building the Tabernacle

A)The place where God said – I will meet with you there.

B)God was creating a visible tangible space to communicate his desire to be with his people

C)We see this reiterated in our text again today several ways
V.42 he calls it - the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, **where I will meet you to speak with you**

D)V.45 45 **I will dwell among the children of Israel** and will be their God. 46 And they **shall know that I *am* the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them.**

Sometimes when we get caught up in thinking about the majesty of God the Greatness of God –

A)The Holiness of God - It is hard to fathom that

B)God invites us to Draw near to Him – commune with Him

C)Before God wants us to do anything for Him- He longs for us to be with Him.

D)And one of the ways that we are invited into that special communion is in Prayer –
1)Prayer is simply talking to God – looking to a friend

But prayer is something I struggled with for a long time in my walk with God. – Maybe you have too.
A)I loved to study the Bible – no problem there – from the time I was 19 – all day – So rich… so special – so much there

B)Loved amazing times of Worship – entering into God's presence with other believers – Magnify nights

C)But when it came to the prayer – I would wrestle – my mind would wander and lose focus – or go blank

I would hear pastors talk about how we all needed to pray more
A)I would set out with great intentions to pray for 30-45 minutes

B)I would start out great pouring my heart out to God only to wake up 40 minutes later – failed again.

C)I wrestled with my prayer life for a long long time.

D)Maybe you can relate to that – been a struggle for you as well.

Now I know Some of you are prayer warriors
A)But I would venture to say: There are quite a few of you in you who have struggled as I did in my prayer life

B)Prayer has been an area of your Walk with Jesus – you felt like a failure – condemned – defeated

C)Well this morning – I want to share with you something that is taken from this picture of the Tabernacle

D)That really helped me breakthrough my struggles in prayer

It was a study I heard Jon Courson give – back in the 90's called praying through the Tabernacle
A)Since Published a little booklet – that title

B)This material helped me immensely develop a stronger more consistent prayer life

C)I have taken his outline- made it my own -
1)Walk you through my version today

D)Not everyday – often – length varies

So Using the Model of the Tabernacle we are going to see today a beautiful pattern for prayer: **Put up the Picture**

A)The Tabernacle we have seen was this tent that sat in this courtyard surrounded by a white linen fence

B)The Courtyard area was 150 ft long and 75 ft wide.

C)Notice at the front of the Courtyard – Entrance – Colored Fabrics – Blue, Purple, Scarlet –
1)THE GATE

D)Now this is the Starting place of this model of prayer – Enter through the Gate.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving – Psalm 100:4

Thanksgiving is a great place to start in Prayer

A)Beginning prayer by thanking God for what he has done in your life! -

B)Sometimes I approach prayer overwhelmed and burdened – things weighing heavy on my heart

C)Needs or problems that seem insurmountable and overwhelming –
1)and my temptation is to jump right into telling God about my problems

D)And we can for sure do that: Hebrews 4 Come boldly confident….his throne – grace and mercy… need

But I find that starting prayer with Thanksgiving does something to my heart

A)Thanksgiving has a way reminding me of the faithfulness of God

B)Lord thankyou for your provision – resources were scarce – thank you for my bride
1)The miracles – Lennon - our church- the list goes on

C)Sometimes I keep a list of things I am thankful for on my phone – add to it

Paul the apostle said [18] **in everything** give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

A)Paul what do you mean In everything – that is so unrealistic – doesn't make sense

B)I just lost my job – you are saying in that I am supposed to be thankful? Doesn't make sense

C)But this is what I have discovered when I am building a prayer life that is starts w/ thanksgiving

D)When the difficult seasons/storms come rolling into my life –
1)I am less prone to panic – And more prone to peace

E)Because my pattern of prayer has been to start with Thanking God for his faithfulness

See beginning my prayer times with thanksgiving
A)Is developing that spiritual muscle of gratitude In My life

B)It Keeps me in a place where I am rehearsing God's proven track record in my in my life

C)His proven track record of faithfulness in my family in our church.

D)I am getting less overwhelmed and becoming more expectant – What is He going to do this time!
1)Change in heart posture – change in perspective
Change in outlook – Wonderful

So we start by entering through the Gate with thanksgiving
A)Once we come through the gate – we would enter into the Courtyard

B)The Courts is the 2nd stop in this prayer Model – and again Psalm 100:4 is our guide
1)…Gates with thanksgiving… Courts with praise

C)Now you might be wondering – what is the difference – Thanksgiving and praise?

D)Thanksgiving is thanking God for what He has done!
1)Praise is rejoicing in who He is!

Praising Him as God almighty – King of Kings Lord of Lords – ON THE THRONE – Life
A)This World – I often need that reminder

B)Praising His names – Jehovah Rapha – the God who heals
1))Jehovah-Jireh — *The Lord Will Provide*
Jehovah-Tsidkenu — *The Lord Our Righteousness*
2)Jehovah Shaloam – Our Peace

C)Praising him for His majesty -His Greatness His Grace and Mercy

Remember when Jesus was teaching his disciples to pray – he does a similar thing
A)When you pray say – Our father - Daddy Intimate relationship – loves you for you

B)Our father who is in Heaven - King

Here is why this is important
A)Puts things in perspective – See I can enter into my time of prayer w/ what looks like a MT of problems

B)But as I start praising God more who He is the Mountains turn into molehills
1)In his presence – In comparison to who he us

C)I am convinced this is what happened into David in 1 Samuel 17 – Goliath – Giant of a man –
1)No one wanted to fight him – shaking in sandals

D)David shows up…uncircumcised philistine….God David says I will fight him – no problem?

E)Why? Scholars tell us – right before that scene David wrote Psalm 19

V.1 The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known NLT

David has been meditating on the greatness of God and his creation – fields sheep – stars

A)Lord you are AMAZING !!!

B)So He sees the giant Goliath in light of His great God – He is nothing – He doesn't stand a chance

C)And not only that – David had been thinking about God's proven track record in his life

Saul says – you can't fight him – you are a boy and that dude is a monster – Killing machine

A)My God delivered a bear and a lion into my hands and he will be faithful here too.

B)He ran at Goliath – Says Today you come at me with a Sword and a spear – take you down – NO

C)I come to you in THE NAME – living GOD – HE will deliver me into your hands

E)All of that was the perspective David had after spending time in Praise and Thxgiving of God

That leads us to the next stop in our prayer journey

A)The Bronze Altar – Place of Sacrifice

B)We have noted in our Wed study – when the animal was placed on the Altar – hands on head

1)Identification – all my sin, guilt, shame -transferred

C)The Bronze Altar was not just a place of sacrifice it was also a place of confession

D)And in this model of prayer – the next step is confession of sin.

And it is appropriate that confession follows Thanksgiving and praise

A)Thanking him for his faithfulness – proven track record and praising him for who he is.

B)Why is that so important in confession?

C)The Scariest thing about confession – parent – spouse – a boss – is the unknown

1)Not knowing how they are going to react

But when we are dwelling on who God is and what he has done – makes confession easier

A)He is a good good father –

B)He is the God Who says – He delights in showing mercy - Mercies are new every morning

C)He is waiting for us to confess – shower us with mercy and Grace

D)When Adam sinned – God came into the garden looking for man – Where are you?

E)Did he know where they were? What they did?

Of course He knew: Adam says we are hiding- God said did you eat…..?

A)He knew but he wanted Adam to confess – to own his sin

B)Remember what Adam did- It was the Woman … The woman that you gave me
1)Not my fault – Her fault and your fault

C)So like us – Pass the buck – lay the blame on someone else – or something else

The Greek word for confess is homologeo.
A)Homo means "the same" – Logeo means to speak .

B)So it means to speak the same as. Call it what it is Sin – wrong – not a mistake –

C)Don't blame it on someone else – Own it

D)Promise: [9] If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

The next stop on the prayer journey is the Bronze Laver – Bowl for washing

A)Priest would wash the blood of the sacrifice off of their hands and feet–before going into the Holy place

B)Water is symbolic in scripture of the Word of God

[3] You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. John 15:3 CSB

C)So at this point in the prayer journey I like to stop and reflect on the Word
1)Verses I am meditating on – memorized

D)Allow my heart and mind to be renewed by the Word – reminder of his mercy and grace –
1)reminder of his faithfulness – His holiness

Turn to ch.34 – Two weeks we are going to begin a 3-4 week deep Dive in this passage – THE NAME

A)Scene – Moses in Chapter 33 asked God – Can I see your glory

B)God says no Moses – Kill you – but allow my backside

C)I WILL PROCLAIM MY NAME - God is saying this is who I am

D)Notice how God describes himself -

5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him
there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD
passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD
God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in
goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving
iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the*
guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children
and the children's children to the third and the fourth
generation." Exodus 34:5-7

Important- How you see God will affect the way you see yourself and the way you see the World

A)I have been meditating on this description God gives of himself – his name

The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious,
longsuffering, and **abounding in goodness** and truth,
7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and
transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*,
visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the
children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

B)I have been memorizing this in different translations and meditating for about a year

C)Looking so forward our whole study of diving into this amazing passage – unpacking – can't wait

D)But this is a passage I will meditate on in prayer – at the Bronze Laver

Next stop on our prayer Journey – move from the Courtyard to the Holy Place –Priest minister- New Pic

A)Table of Showbread - 12 tribes sitting on the table that spoke of Jesus – Acacia wood / Gold

B)Sitting there in the Holy Place before the Holy of Holies –

1)Picture of God's people resting in his provision

C)So at this point: I am fixated on who God is and his proven track record in my life

Ready to bring my needs before him – pour out my heart concerning – situations

A)But because I am giving thanks and praise and confessed – meditated on the word

B)My attitude is confident – bold to enter in – so ready to give him my cares/ concerns

1)Follow Peters advice Cast all my cares on him because HE CARES FOR ME

C)Lord I don't want to carry this any more – stupid to carry it any more – you are God

1)You love me – for me – proven that time and time again – LORD I BRING THIS TO YOU!

D)So the Table of Showbread is praying for personal needs – and that is ok – don't feel bad or selfish

1)Jesus: Matthew 6:11 Give us this day …. Bread

Once I have laid my needs before Him.
A)Leaving them in his hands

B)Next place in the prayer journey – Lampstand

C)Praying for Ministries – for those shining as lights
1)Churches –

Remember in the book of Revelation 2-3 Jesus writes a letter to 7 churches in Asia Minor
A)He describes himself as the one walking in the midst of the seven golden lampstands

B)That is how he describes those churches – Lampstands – bearers of light in a dark world

C)Jesus declared himself to be the light of the World – but then he said – You are also lights in the World
1)Me shinning in you

Lampstands are the light bearers – Churches – ministries – missionaries – pastors
A)People I know that are shinning brightly

B)Pray for the Light bearers Matthew 5:16
16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

C)Praying they continue to shine bright – impact in their spheres of influence

The next stop Last vessel in the Holy Place – Altar of Incense
A)We don't have to guess what that is about – told in Revelation 8- prayers of the saints

B)So this is the place where I am going to pray for others

C)Friends – list of people – prayer email that goes out – copy those names

But it is not just praying for friends – and people I care about – but also praying for enemies/ hurt me
A)Not liking this Pastor Rob – with you until now

B)Listen Jesus told us to pray for our enemies

C)You say: I do just like David – Kill them Lord – bash their teeth in

Ok – start there: But I have learned this- Hard to stay mad at someone praying for them
A)God does something to your heart – changes your perspective- See them differently

B)Hurt people – Hurt people – Lord I am starting to realize they are that way – they been hurt
1)Not an excuse – but an insight

C)They are going to keep hurting others until they get free of that – Lord free them – heal them
You start praying for God to open their eyes
A)Praying for God – to convict them of wrong

B)Something happens inside of your heart – Free

C)No longer defined as a victim – no longer defined by what someone did to you –

D)Finding your identity in Christ – So Freeing – so empowering

So the Altar of Incense is the place of intercession praying for friends – needs – even enemies
A)That brings us to the final place – Holy of Holies
Shekinah Glory of God dwells

B)Glory is scene in his Mercy – the Blood on the Mercy seat

C)This is the place of deep worship!

Stand in Awe of Him
A)Bow before Him

B)Caught up in the glory the weightiness of who God is – Sometimes – tears - overwhelmed

C)Now this pattern of prayer – helps me get my heart in the right place for Deep Worship
1)Worship God the way that he desires to be worshipped

Remember in John 4 Jesus is in Samaria and he enters into that discussion with Samaritan woman?
A)Turns to the subject of Worship – Jesus said this

[23] But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. [24] God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23,24

B)Two things stand out to me about these verses
1st God is seeking worshippers

C)Not because he needs to be told how awesome he is

But worship is the Height of the expression of intimacy!
A)Created to Worship – People worship all sorts of things – other people – possessions – positions

B)We are experiencing the ultimate expression of our existence when we are worshipping God

C)Taste of His Glory! – Made for more! – Made for this

D)Life becomes a living expression of worship when in whatever we are doing – Word of deed
1)Do all for His name and his glory

E)Doing dishes / Work / Fun / His name his glory
I have found this model of prayer helps me approach all the aspects of my life – from that perspective
A)His name and His glory

B)Now a couple more things that have helped me grow in prayer

C)Pray out loud – keeps my mind from wandering
Helps me really think about what I am saying

D)Conversation with God –

My favorite way to pray is prayer walks
A)Neighborhood – ear buds – neighbors don't think I am nuts

B)Phone in hand – list – or verse meditate –
1)1st started his – the steps

C)So I love to walk around my neighborhood – down at the beach

D)End at my house – backyard – worship moment

I also love to pray on my paddle board 1-2 times a week – Wonderful –

A)Pray swimming – remarkable - steps in the pool

B)God meets me

C)Pt. Doesn't matter where/when – find what works
So that is what I do – that is what works well for me
A)Encourage you to find what works well for you.

B)You would be growing in prayer –

C)Because that is going to be mean that you will be growing in your intimacy with Jesus

D)And that is going to help you – grow in your identity in Christ

Praying people – praying church

His heart – His plan – His glory in your life.