

“Lampstand of the Lord – Part 2”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're reminded that we're living in prophetic times, called to be like the sons of Issachar who understood the seasons. The central theme revolves around the restoration of God's lampstand. Drawing from Zechariah's vision and the letters to the seven churches in Revelation, we're urged to return to our first love and allow God to rekindle our spiritual fire. The broken lampstand, repaired, serves as a poignant metaphor for our own lives - how God can restore us, bringing us closer to Him than ever before. This isn't just about personal renewal; it's about being part of a larger movement where God is restoring His church to its original purpose and glory. As we navigate these times, we're challenged to become more deeply dependent on the Holy Spirit, to pay the price for revival, and to position ourselves for the incredible move of God that's on the horizon.

Main Points – Lampstand of the Lord – Part 2

Sermon Summary: This message focuses on God's call for the church to return to its first love and be restored as a light to the world. Pastor Rob draws parallels between the prophecies of Zechariah and the current state of the church, emphasizing that God is initiating a restorative movement. He highlights the importance of dependency on the Holy Spirit and the need for believers to be aware of God's timing in prophetic events. The sermon culminates in a powerful illustration using a repaired menorah, symbolizing God's work in restoring and renewing His people.

Key Points:

- We are living in prophetic times, and it's crucial to understand God's timing
- God is calling His people to return to Him and restore the true testimony of Jesus
- The church is being measured and refined by God for a great revival
- There is a cost to revival, and believers must be willing to pay the price
- God is restoring the priesthood of believers, removing accusations and filthy garments
- The repaired lampstand symbolizes how those restored by God draw closer to Him

Scripture Reference:

- Zechariah 1-4
- Revelation 1:9-20
- Matthew 5:14-16

Stories:

- Pastor Rob's experience of ordering and repairing a broken menorah, which became a prophetic symbol for the church
- The story of his wife not noticing the repaired menorah at first, illustrating how we can sometimes miss Jesus' presence
- The biblical narrative of Joshua the High Priest being cleansed and restored in Zechariah 3
- References to historical revivals and figures like Martin Luther and Martin Luther King Jr. as prophetic voices

Small Group Study Guide – Lampstand of the Lord – Part 2

Key Takeaways:

1. We are living in prophetic times, and God is calling His people to return to Him.
2. God is restoring the true testimony of Jesus Christ in the world.
3. The church is called to be a "lampstand" - shining the light of Christ to the world.
4. Restoration comes through the power of the Holy Spirit, not human effort.
5. God wants to relight and restore what has been broken or dimmed in our lives and in the church.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Rob mentioned that we are "living in prophetic times." What does this mean to you, and how do you see evidence of this in the world today?
2. Reflect on the imagery of the lampstand. How does this symbol represent both Jesus and the church? How can we ensure our "light" is shining brightly?
3. The sermon emphasized the importance of returning to God. In what areas of your life do you feel you may have drifted from your "first love" for Jesus?
4. Discuss the statement: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." How does this challenge our typical approaches to ministry and personal growth?
5. Pastor Rob shared the story about buying and restoring the broken lampstand. What spiritual lessons can we draw from this experience?
6. How do you respond to the idea that "those who've been repaired will always be a little bit closer" to Jesus? Share a time when God's restoration in your life drew you closer to Him.

Practical Applications:

1. Personal Inventory: Take time this week to honestly assess areas in your life where you may have become "dim" in your faith. Bring these before God in prayer, asking for His restoration.
2. Light-Bearing Challenge: Identify one practical way you can shine Christ's light in your workplace, neighborhood, or family this week. Share your experiences with the group next time.
3. Restoration Prayer: Spend time daily this week praying for God's restorative work in your life, your church, and your community. Keep a journal of any insights or experiences.

4. Scripture Meditation: Read and reflect on Revelation 2-3 (the letters to the seven churches). How might Jesus' words to these churches apply to us today?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for your desire to restore and relight our lives. Help us to return to you wholeheartedly and to shine brightly as your witnesses in this world. Empower us by your Spirit to be effective lampstands, drawing others to the light of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Discussion Questions – Lampstand of the Lord – Part 2

How do you interpret the concept of 'returning to the Lord' in your own life, and what practical steps can you take to draw closer to God?

In what ways might you be acting as a 'lampstand' in your community, and how can you ensure your light continues to shine brightly?

How does the image of God as a 'builder' resonate with you, and what areas of your life might God be constructing or reconstructing?

What 'mountains' or obstacles in your life seem insurmountable, and how can you apply the principle of 'not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit' to overcome them?

How do you balance the tension between feeling unqualified to serve God and the biblical narrative of God using imperfect people for His purposes?

In what ways have you experienced spiritual 'exile', and how has God used that experience to refine or redirect you?

How might the concept of being 'broken and repaired' apply to your spiritual journey, and what does it mean to you to be 'closer to the center'?

What does it mean to you to be part of a 'restorative movement' in the church, and how can you contribute to this restoration?

How do you discern between human effort ('might and power') and the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and ministry?

In what ways can you cultivate a deeper awareness of Jesus' presence in your daily life, avoiding the 'veil' of familiarity or distraction?

Scriptures – Lampstand of the Lord – Part 2

Here are the [scripture references mentioned or alluded to](#) in the sermon, along with some suggested relevant verses for key themes:

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. Revelation 1:9-20
2. Matthew 5:14-16
3. Romans 9-11 (general reference)
4. Zechariah 1:3-4, 14-17
5. Zechariah 2:1-7
6. Zechariah 3:1-7
7. Zechariah 4:1-7
8. Malachi 3:2-3 (alluded to)
9. Jeremiah 29:11

Alluded to or Implied:

1. Galatians 4:4 ("in the fullness of time")
2. Matthew 11:28 ("Come unto me, all you who labor")
3. 1 Chronicles 12:32 (sons of Issachar who understood the times)
4. John 5:30 (Jesus saying "I can of my own self do nothing")
5. Luke 24:13-35 (Road to Emmaus)
6. Revelation 12:10-11 (overcoming the accuser)
7. 2 Samuel 24:24 (not offering to the Lord that which costs nothing)
8. Zechariah 4:10 ("Do not despise the day of small beginnings")
9. John 13:23 (John leaning on Jesus' chest)

Devotional – Lampstand of the Lord – Part 2

[Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:](#)

Day 1: Returning to Our First Love

Reading: Revelation 2:1-7

Devotional: The church of Ephesus was commended for many good works, but they had lost their first love. Today, reflect on your own relationship with Jesus. Have you allowed busyness, even in good things, to distance you from your passionate love for Christ? Remember that God is calling us to return to Him with our whole hearts. Take time to rekindle that first love, focusing on Jesus' presence rather than just religious activities. Ask the Holy Spirit to reignite your passion for Christ and to help you prioritize your relationship with Him above all else.

Day 2: Not By Might, But By My Spirit

Reading: Zechariah 4:1-14

Devotional: Zerubbabel faced the daunting task of rebuilding the temple, but God reminded him that it would be accomplished "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit." In our own lives, we often try to accomplish things for God through our own strength and abilities. Today, surrender your efforts to the Lord and ask for a fresh infilling of His Spirit. Recognize that true spiritual impact comes not through human effort, but through yielding to and relying on the Holy Spirit. What areas of your life need to be surrendered afresh to God's power?

Day 3: Overcoming Accusation with God's Grace

Reading: Zechariah 3:1-5

Devotional: Joshua the high priest stood before God in filthy garments, accused by Satan. Yet God rebuked the accuser and clothed Joshua in clean garments. We too often feel disqualified by our past failures or current struggles. Remember that in Christ, you are cleansed and given a new identity. When accusation comes, stand firm in the grace of God. Reflect on areas where you feel condemned and actively receive God's forgiveness and restoration. Thank Him for the "clean garments" of Christ's righteousness that He has given you.

Day 4: Restored for a Purpose

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4

Devotional: God's restoration in our lives is not just for our own benefit, but so we can participate in His redemptive work in the world. Reflect on how God has healed and restored you. How can you use your story to bring hope and healing to others? Ask God to show you specific ways He wants to use your experiences to minister to those around you. Pray for a heart that sees the brokenness in your community and for the courage to be an agent of God's restoration. Remember, you are anointed to bring good news, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim freedom for the captives.

Day 5: Preparing for Revival

Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Devotional: Malachi prophesied about the Lord's coming to purify His people like a refiner's fire. While this can sound intimidating, it's actually an invitation to deep transformation. God wants to purify us so that we can offer Him true worship and be effective witnesses in the world. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart today. Are there areas of compromise or lukewarmness that need to be addressed? Submit yourself to God's refining process, trusting that He is preparing you and His church for a great outpouring of His presence and power in these last days.