

Life Group Notes

Sunday 14th January 2024

Speaker: David Mosimabale

Title: The Presence: The Tabernacle

Passage: Exodus 33:7-11

Ever since we lost God's presence in the Garden of Eden, God has been in the business of restoring us to his presence where he abides with and communes with us. This restoration journey, albeit in partial expression was fully completed by Jesus through his death and resurrection. What we lost through Adam is now restored in Jesus. However, in our text, as part of this restorative plan God manifested himself through the tent of meeting/Tabernacle. We see Moses taking the tent of meeting outside the camp to meet with God. Moses understood that God's presence was all he needed. He had an expectation to meet with God and cultivated a discipline of taking the tent outside the camp to meet with God away from distractions. In return, God's presence came down in the form of a cloud that **was evident to all.**

As we begin this new year, the Lord is calling us to his presence, a place of fellowship where we can enjoy his manifest presence in tangible ways. His manifest presence is guaranteed to come down when we seek him. We access his voice, enjoy direction, protection, strength, and provision amongst so many other benefits. Commit to seek him in fresh and new ways this year and beyond. Refuse to be satisfied by the status quo – there is so much more he wants to do in us and through us for his glory in our neighbourhoods, workplaces, the town of Reading, and beyond. The tent of meeting/tabernacle is divided into the outer court, Holy place, and Holy of Holies. See below furniture in the tabernacle/tent of meeting:

Furniture in the Tabernacle	Purpose	Points to Jesus
Altar of burnt offering	Atonement of sin by sacrifice. To address sin.	John 1:29
Bronze basin	Cleansing of priest before service	Ephesians 5:26
Table of presence/bread	To carry the bread – God is our sustainer	John 6:35
Seven branch lampstands	The only source of light in the tent of meeting	John 8:12
Altar of Incense	Prayers of the saints offered by the priest as mediators between God and man. Now, Jesus mediates for us.	1 Tim 2:15; Hebrews 7:25
Veil	Separates the holy place from the holy of holies	Mark 15:38
Ark of Covenant	The high priest enters once a year to sprinkle the blood of atonement seven times on the mercy seat	John 3:16 Rom 3:25

Suggested Questions:

1. What did God say to you from the preach and what are you going to do about it?
2. Which of the furniture in the tabernacle/tent of meeting speaks to you?
3. How are you dealing with distractions when it comes to accessing his presence
4. What disciplines and habits do you have or are you putting in place this year to prioritise His presence?
5. Pray for one another for a fresh daily hunger for his presence that will lead to us to earnestly seek him so we can see his manifest presence in our respective lives, families, neighbourhoods, workplaces, etc.