

CHILDREN, YOUNG MEN AND FATHERS II

In the course of teaching twelve men who have lived the bad side of life and are now trying their best to come out of it, I felt led to use the symbolism of the Mosaic Tabernacle as a teaching tool. Not knowing how long I would actually be able to teach, I was forced to present a very concentrated form of all the truths therein, and many times just the abstract.

As is often the case, the teacher learns more than the pupil. In preparing each Wednesday's lesson, the Spirit revealed insights to me on things I *thought* I understood. In a short time I became aware that these men were indeed special, literally being brands plucked from the fire. Moreover, it was revealed they were to be men of God, sons of the Most High, warriors for His special purposes, and fathers to many after them. The dragon was, and is, aware of all this.

The makeup of these twelve men was highly varied in their education, age and type of family. Some came from God-fearing families, while others had little understanding of the Almighty. Some had fathers as they grew up, most did not. But all were genuine, and most importantly, hungry to know and change. The breach was huge in a few cases, some two-three generations removed from any semblance of a Godly male model or fatherly influence. Thus this paper serves to put into a capsule form the Due Order of a Man of God. As such, the Mosaic Tabernacle serves well as a male restoration teaching tool.

As the emphasis began to focus on their purpose, calling and restoration as men, the enemy began to interfere, distract and disrupt by means of the most innocent-appearing vessels. Indeed, as this is being written at 2:00 A.M., I sense an urgency to counter the intent of the dragon to make war on these men, to destroy them as it were, in the womb of their re-training.

The Mosaic Tabernacle had two sections in each of which two forms of Divinity dwelt; both were covered (= protection). The most inward, the Holy of Holies, contained the Ark of the Covenant, upon which the Glory of God dwelt. The next section outward was the Holy Place, in which were three "pieces" of furniture. To the right was the Table of Shewbread, also known as the Bread of the Presence. To the left was the Golden Candlestick, and in the middle was the Altar of Incense. It was located directly in front of the veil leading into the Holy of Holies.¹

The Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies represents the I AM, the Godhead, the Triune God. Israel, for whom the Mosaic Tabernacle was originally constructed, had no difficulty seeing God holistically, e.g. as the Elohim, the plural supreme God. But the Gentile, or western mind, seems to have a mental problem with a three in one. For that or some other reason, God gave Israel (and us) the Holy Place, in which there are the three separate expressions, or personalities of the Godhead.

This helps us visualize and understand Him. (I personally see these sections as representing realms, or dimensions; since the Mosaic Tabernacle is a shadow of the real one in Heaven, this would stand to reason. Additionally, it is a shadow of ourselves as humans. Just as the Godhead has three parts, we also have three expressions in our body, soul and spirit. Each of these is a part of three different realms.)

The three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place representing the Godhead are in order:
the Father, by the table of Shewbread
the Son, by the Golden Candlestick, and
the Holy Spirit, by the Altar of Incense

- I. The Table of Shewbread held twelve loaves of bread. The number twelve signifies *Government*, which in turn embraces the following:
Order, restraint, direction, protection within and from without for common good.
Rules, regulations, ordinances, statutes, principles.
Administration of public affairs, infrastructure.
Center of authority.

These allow for and permit peace, justice for the wronged, tranquility for the rearing of families, work, travel, etc. Without government, there would be tumult, violence, travesty, ruin, and rupturing of all relations. In fact, the Hebrew word for *wicked* (*Strong's #7563*), means tumult, disorder, poorly regulated, disjointed, chaos, etc.

Therefore, the Table of Shewbread with its twelve loaves represents the Father, and His relationship to His people. The same is true for an earthly father over his family.

He is to:

- protect,
- guard,
- establish (righteous) authority,
- exercise fairness, direction,
- administer discipline, punishment, and justice,
- maintain order and restraint,
- provide and enforce rules and regulations for the good of all the family,
- be the center of authority,
- be the only one held responsible to his heavenly Father.
- Rear up his children in the nurture and fear of the LORD.
- Discipline, chasten, and train his children in the way they should go.
- Love, guide, provide, and teach his children in the ways of God, that they should become adults who will in like fashion rear their own children.
- Be a model and example for them.

Now all these sound good, but are not where the rubber hits the road. They are applied in seemingly small acts of daily living. Some that come to mind are:

- A father has the young man who is about to date his daughter come see him first.
- A father teaches his son to get the chores done before he eats supper.
- A father sees to it that the wood is cut and stacked before cold weather sets in.
- A father checks the pipes for insulation before cold weather.
- A father does not let the gas get low.
- A father watches all strangers approaching his car.
- A father scans the car gauges continuously, as well as the road, sky, and crowds.
- A father listens to the cautions of his wife, and respects her.
- A father teaches his son to work, and be respectful to women and his elders.
- A father spends time with his wife in the evening with the kids in their room.
- A father stops his 13-year old daughter from going out with her nipples showing.
- A father gets up early enough to listen to God, and read the Word.
- A father disciplines himself on what he eats, drinks, and watches.
- A father manages his income wisely, and restrains his spending and “playtime.”
- A father, by example, is kind to animals.
- A father keeps his animals fed and watered before he eats.
- A father keeps watch over his fences, gates and doors.
- A father takes care of leaks, repairs and breaks.
- A father in the end is responsible for all things that affect his family, period.
- A father is always alert, cautious, wary and awake.
- A father prepares for the worst and expects the best.
- A father kills the growling dog.
- A father does not tolerate interference, rebellion, laziness or carelessness.
- A father governs, manages, disciplines and directs.

II. The Golden Candlestick stood on the left side as one looks forward toward the Holy of Holies. It was built after the Ark and Mercy Seat found in the Holy of Holies. Made of one piece of beaten pure gold, the Candlestick represented the Son. It gave off light from its seven arms of lamps, illuminating the Holy Place. Jesus is not only THE light, He is OUR light. Being the fullness of the Godhead bodily, Jesus’ personality, character, and divine qualities are what are to be formed in us as we grow spiritually. Moreover, His words are to be our guide and standards, but spiritually to be us. Though there are an infinite number of words that describe Him, the following are a few of the more salient ones:

Obedient to His Father	Full of virtue	Patient
Fear of God	Authoritative	Counsel
Full of the Spirit	Balanced	Understanding
Wise	Loving	Full of joy
Faithful	Wise	Gentle
Kind	Wary	Knowledge
Steadfast	Led by the Spirit	Godly
Teacher	Self-controlled	Unchanging

Jesus, in short, was led by the Spirit, obedient to His Father, fearless of men, and did what he was supposed to do. *He never allowed men or women (even his mother) to sway his decision, nor deflect him from what, when and to whom he was told to speak or what he was to do.* All facets of His character were impeccable, all worth having and emulating. Jesus is the model, the example, the leader, the shepherd, the King. Jesus is the One to whom we must all look, and to the words of Whom we must all give account.

Jesus is the second of the Three that has been **trampled**, the second of the Three that has been treated with **dishonor**. There is one of the Three of the Godhead left, the softest and gentlest of all, the Holy Spirit, represented by the Altar of Incense.

III. The Altar of Incense sits in front of the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. As man would go towards being a Man of God, he would enter the door to the Holy Place and see the Altar of Incense in front of him. For a man to enter the door at all would have required that he be wooed, convicted and cleansed of sin and drawn to Jesus as Savior in the first place. This process never stops.

Incense speaks of the prayers of the saints or prayer in general. The Altar was the highest piece in the Mosaic Tabernacle, speaking of altitude, being closest to the Elohim, or the Holy of Holies itself. The Holy Spirit is without form, a breath, a wind, a spirit, soft and everywhere. He is the One who intercedes for us, watches over us, and gently directs us. He is the One to whom we are to listen first, and the One who leads us to Jesus as the Example who is obedient to the Father, who directs all. He is the One who woos, persuades, draws, convinces and convicts us mortals to conform to the image of Jesus in obedience to the Father.

Words that describe the Person of the Holy Spirit are as numerous as they are for Jesus Himself. Those which we have studied are as follows;

Patient	Confidence
Merciful	Adoration for Jesus
Pained for our wholeness	Tarries
Brings to completion	Caring
Watchful	Saves
Upholding	Draws
Pleasant	Not bothered by tribulation
Hope, Hope, Hope	Perseveres
Non-despairing	Firm, disciplined
Assurance	Causes to believe
Blesses	Gives understanding
Warm	Immutable
Gentle	Nurtures

As is the case with the words that describe Jesus and the Father, these give the mind an overall picture that renews our mind, thus bringing it closer to the reality of the things that are real, not worldly. The Holy Spirit is the third of the Three to be held in contempt, the last stoplight out of town, as it were. He is the last to be *disrespected*, and being infinitely gentle and unassuming, the One whom, if blasphemed (let the reader hear and understand), brings condemnation to men through eternal unforgiveness.

Thus;

the Father we *disobey*
the Son we *dishonor*
the Spirit we *disrespect*

It is this order in which we destroy ourselves as a man, as a husband, and thus the family.

Disobedience begets abdication and rebellion;
Abdication and rebellion beget selfishness or narcissism;
Selfishness begets hopelessness or nihilism.

After hopelessness, there is no remedy.

The order in which the Three are disobeyed, dishonored and disrespected is the same order of occurrence of the Three Sore Acts of Judgment, followed by beasts. In the age of the Father, the Old Testament, judgment came in these forms in sequence, e.g. first the Sword, then second Famine, then third Pestilence. When these had run their course, Beasts roamed the land. These days *all four* are coming to pass simultaneously, all four reaching a crescendo unparalleled in the history of mankind.

Disobedience to the Father is the seed sown, reaped as the Sword, the opposite of order.
Dishonor to the Son is the seed sown that brings Famine, the opposite of food.
Disrespect to the Spirit is the seed sown that brings Pestilence, the invasion of our inner selves.

The Way Back is the reverse; we must “hear” the Spirit first and surely, who in turn directs us to the Son, where we learn and are transformed into all His qualities, particularly His obedience to the Father. Once we are **balanced in all Three**, we become true sons of God.

So also we can, should, and will be,

First, Children of God.
Then, Young Men of God,
And finally, Fathers in God

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