

The Sanctuary – Court Pt III – The Laver

ST Series 03

[Read Romans 6:1-11 & 1 Cor. 10:1-4 and Exodus 30:17-21 prayerfully and often]

The Laver - All My Filth is Christ's

Laver means – ‘washbowl’, a cooking pot and a fire pot
(1 Kings 7:30) (1 Samuel 2:14) (Zech 12:6)

It is probably derived from a root meaning to dig or bore or make round with a hammer - As does a tin-smith, which might indicate that it was a **beaten work**.

This picture comes to life in the description of the crucifixion:

“They pierced [*digged, hammered, bored*] my hands and feet.” On Calvary the hammer and nails made a “**laver**” of Christ’s hands and feet from which **the cleansing streams of Salvation flowed**.

By its Hebrew name also, (which means ‘round’ shape) was the laver’s semi-spherical shape hammered out.

A) The Laver and Its Foot (Exod. 30:17-21, 28; 31:9; Lev 8:11)

- A shallow saucer-shaped dish with a somewhat larger diameter than that of the Laver, with a turned up rim. These were strictly for reservoirs – nothing was washed in either laver or foot.
- Interesting side note: Muslim mosques illustrate this type of ritual by providing worshipers to wash – face, hands and feet before entering to pray. This idea probably originated from the Sanctuary.

Priests were required to first purify themselves by the water ritual at the laver before ministering at the _____ or in the _____.

What is the significance of the laver resting on the desert sand during the wilderness wanderings? This sings the gospel song of _____ in reaching down to where _____ to the Promised Land, to provide cleansing water for _____. Jesus reminded Nicodemus that the new birth, which consisted of forgiveness, cleansing, justification and regeneration, concerned “_____” (John 3:12). Our Lord thus pictured the need for His disciples to be “_____ . . . _____ . . . _____” (1 Cor 6:11) _____, and trudging toward Paradise. p. 2

B) Laver Made of Bronze Mirrors

- from polished brass or copper ' _____ ' donated by Israelite woman (Ex.38:8; 30:17-21).

In Scripture, mirror illustrates one function of the law = revealer of sin.
(James 1:23-25 cf. 2 Cor. 3:17,18)

C) The Mirror – Symbol of God's Law

As the sinner meditates on His Saviour's life, the Spirit helps him to sense his own unworthiness, and he is ready to acknowledge himself "shapen in iniquity" (Ps 51:5). The Scriptures are replete with examples of persons to whom heaven has granted such insights, and who then recognized in themselves "*only wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores*" (Isa 1:6) extending from the tops of their heads (*their thoughts*) to the soles of their feet (*their daily walk*). Through this self-knowledge even "perfect" Job was led to lament, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5, 6),

After the sinner has looked into the divine mirror and *been convicted of sin*, as he *permits, the Spirit creates a penitent heart and a longing for change and cleansing* in him. As he again gazes into the "mirror" **with his changed perspective**, what had previously seemed to him a "law of bondage," he discovers to be **the perfect "law of liberty"** (James 2:12). He *accepts the cleansing of the Water of Life* for his tortured conscience, which releases him from his intolerable burden of guilt, and thus he *escapes from the thralldom of sin*.

The Law is impotent to cleanse and release the sinner – it can only condemn by exposing his sinful heart and point him to the Saviour for forgiveness.

(Rom. 3:20; 7:7-13; Gal.3:24, 25)

D) The Cleansing Water from the Smitten Rock

-The Laver was filled with the water from the Smitten Rock

The Lord Himself created the water for the laver's richer role from the riven rock (Ex.17.5).

-That Rock is Christ (1 Cor 10:4; PP 411) – broken open by vindictive hands, but in God's providence providing cascades of the "WATER AND BLOOD" desperately needed to remove man's sin and uncleanness (Zech 12:1).

- Consider closely this picture of the mirror-laver and its foot representing the power of the Saviour, first to expose human need for those who gaze into His life,

and then to provide the water to wash away the guilt of every sin reflected on its shimmering face. For all who chose to dip and bathe in the waters of the laver and its foot God gave cleansing. These rituals pointed to Christ, the Sent of God, Who one day would become the refreshing Pool of Peace for all who long for pardon and purity. Eternal Spirit, flow into our lives and purify our hearts.

We need to realize that the Laver is a symbol of cleansing by water. Where in the Christian experience do we find this being taught? John 3:3, 5 reveals the importance of water baptism. God ordained it, taught here in the typology and Jesus placed an imperative on necessary for our salvation.

E) The laver's Two-fold Ministry

- This two-fold ministry was part of the " _____ " service of the Sanctuary, and called attention to the need for a " _____ " repetition of this phase of the plan of salvation.

"In order to gain a knowledge of ourselves, it is necessary to look into the mirror, and there discovering our own defects, avail ourselves of the blood of Christ, the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness, in which we may wash our robes of character and remove the stains of sin. But many refuse to see their errors and correct them; they do not want a true knowledge of themselves" (4T 58-59).

Because of this indifference they spurn both the Mirror and the Fountain.

F) Twin Streams of Water and Blood

- The linkage between the laver's _____, the altar's redeeming _____ and purifying _____ must never be overlooked. This triad of rituals formed three points to a triangle, balancing a like triad in the holy place, the light, the bread and the incense. These six ministries for the sinner, long carried out in the court of the Tabernacle and the holy place, are now performed by our High Priest in the heavenly Sanctuary, and reach down to each one of us through the Spirit.

On that awful Friday nineteen centuries ago God's tortured Lamb laid down His life and poured out His blood on the "altar [of] the cross", to fulfill His mission as predicted by

Israel's sacrificial system. "On a hill far away" the soldier who plunged his javelin into the heart of the Saviour thought only of ensuring His death; but instead he opened twin streams of "water and blood" for the salvation of the lost race. "The refreshing water . . . is an emblem of the divine grace which Christ alone can bestow, and which is as the living water, purifying, refreshing and invigorating the soul". And wherever there are sinners longing for the defilement of their lives to be washed away (by water), and the redemptive power (through blood) to live the new life of faith, these gracious provisions are ever available from the heavenly Sanctuary. To teach these thrilling facts to ancient Israel the laver and the altar worked side by side, with their typical fingers prophetically pointing toward Golgotha.

The water of the laver was also a type of the holy Scriptures. "The student of the word finds himself bending over a fountain of living water. The church needs to drink deeply of the spirituality of the word" (7BC 964). Eternal Spirit, ever more give us this water.

-- *With Jesus in the Sanctuary p.55,56*