

**Message #44****Leviticus 24:1-9**

When we come to Leviticus 24, we come to seemingly an odd chapter which appears to be totally unrelated to anything in the chapter before it or after it. What we have here are regulations concerning the maintaining of oil and bread in the tabernacle.

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD AND THE FOCUS ON GOD IS NOT JUST TO BE ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND DAYS, BUT AT ALL TIMES.**

Israel was not just to have her focus on God on special days, but everyday—morning and evening continually—every day and every week. When we consider that the issues being discussed here are the maintenance of the lampstand or bread on a table, we realize that God monitors every little thing that takes place behind the scenes at His property.

**SECTION #1** – The provision of the oil for the lamp. **24:1-4**

Now matters pertaining to the golden lampstand are carefully spelled out in Scripture—1) Its design (Ex. 25:31-39); 2) Its construction (Ex. 37:17-24); and 3) Its location (Ex. 40:24-25). The unique feature of this portion is that it deals with information about its fuel.

**(Observation #1)** - This provision of oil comes directly from God. **24:1**

God is addressing Moses about oil in a lamp with the same intensity He addresses Moses about sin issues (i.e. 20:1). The holier we become the more we will recognize God's care for little details that most overlook.

**(Observation #2)** - The oil was to be a clear olive oil. **24:2**

The clear oil from beaten olives was the highest grade of olive oil one could burn. It was much better oil than a boiled olive oil. God wanted His people bringing Him the best possible oil. I do believe the more holy we become the more we will want God to have the best of everything; the best of our lives, the best of our abilities, the best of our talents and the best of our resources.

**(Observation #3)** - The lamp is to burn continually outside the veil of the testimony. **24:3**

The lamp was to sit “outside” the veil of the testimony. The testimony refers to the commandments which were in the ark. So the light was to continually burn on the other side of the curtain that separated the “Holy of Holies” from the “Holy Place.” This would be on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the bread of presence. In the Holy Place were three pieces of furniture: 1) The golden altar of incense; 2) The table of presence bread; 3) The golden lampstand.

Since there were no windows in the tabernacle, it was necessary to have this light continually burning. From the time it got dark at night until the time it got light in the morning, Aaron needed to see to it that this light was maintained and kept burning.

Metaphorically, the concept of oil is used in the N.T. for the anointing work of the Holy Spirit (I John 2:27). We know from Zechariah 4:1-6 that this is a legitimate metaphorical interpretation. But what does this mean to us?

What is profoundly illustrated here is that the only way to see Scripture to understand Scripture is through the work of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, no one will see anything from the Word of God. It is the Holy Spirit who will make things clear to us in the Word of God. As the Scriptures are opened by one gifted by God's Spirit, that same Spirit will enable God's people to see it and grasp it.

**(Observation #4) - The lamps are to burn continually before the LORD. 24:4**

Let's face it; who would see whether or not a lamp burned out in the middle of the night? God would see it. Who sees whether or not we are burning brightly for God's glory? God sees it. Who actually knows if our flame of intensity for the Lord is dwindling? God!

**SECTION #2 – The provision of bread for the table. 24:5-9**

Every week, twelve loaves of bread were to be set in two rows of six on the pure gold table. The bread on this table was called "The bread of Presence" (Ex. 25:23-30). Every Sabbath day the old bread was replaced by the new and the old bread was to be eaten by Aaron and his sons as a portion of the holy things of God.

Now, by virtue of the name of the bread, we know that this was something designed to communicate something about the "presence" of God. No matter where the people were physically, God's presence was with them. Those twelve loaves represented the twelve tribes. God was with His people.

When you go to church, you should expect to be fed the Word of God and when you walk away you should have seen and understood great and marvelous things. There should be a very real sense of the presence of God continually in our lives. The little song is a little wrong—we already have the oil in our lamps, but we do have the responsibility to keep it burning.