

ENTER AT THE ALTAR
IS PASSION LOST OR JUST LAST

EXODUS 27:1-8

Intro: 1. When was the last time you went to the altar in a church?
2. *Many worship models, public agencies and social settings promote anonymity instead of publicity for the individual.*
3. *But, God's Word very clearly speaks of individuality and public verification of spiritual decisions. Maybe you have gotten caught up into the myth that your spiritual life is so private that it is no one else's business. Let's get our lives right according to the precepts of the ALTER OF SACRIFICE given as a pattern in Exodus 27...*

Prop: **You must publically declare your faith!**

I. Because the Altar Presents Equal Opportunity (27:1-2).

1. 7 ½ feet square, yet only 4 ½ feet tall—excluded no ones ability to reach or sacrifice at the altar.
Yet, it is double the height of the Ark (2 ¼ feet tall, Exo.25:10), as the atonement more than saves us from sin, but glorifies us before God
—the ARK represented God's presence among men (in His Word, in His provision of manna, in His intervention and guidance by the Rod of Aaron);
—the ALTAR represented God's acceptance of men into His presence.
2. God's sacrificial death is for whosoever will come.
3. Matt. 23:18→ the offering is implied with the altar acc.to Jesus Luke 9:48b "*And said unto them, ... whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.*"
4. The size of the altar made it possible to carry every other implement in the entire tabernacle inside of it.
5. Dear friend, your sin is not too bad for God to forgive nor your life too far gone for God to make it right, but will you come to God's Altar of Forgiveness today, it's not out of reach nor out of touch with reality, but ready for you to say, God, I accept your sacrifice of Jesus on the Altar of death to cover my sin.

II. Bec. the Alter Prescribes Another's Work (27:3-5).

1. Brass = judgment (the outer court is now brazen, not golden) (Numbers. 21:9; John 3:14; 12:31-33)
Wood = humanity of Christ (Phil. 2:3-5)
—Jesus took the judgment of God while in the form of man so that we could have the golden riches of God in the glorified and redeemed body of Christ.
Implements denote the complete work of Christ carried out with God's instruments, not what we bring with us into His work, but rather what God prescribes for His work of grace.
2. God's work does not depend on what we bring to the altar.
3. Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
Galatians 1:4 "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:"
4. When a child come to a parent for help after a bad fall, they expect the parent to get what is needed to mend the wound.
5. Folks, "there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus" (1Thes 2:5). Will you forget your goodness, your deeds, and come for God's forgiveness?

III. Bec. the Altar Provides Ever-Present Service (27:6-7).

1. staves/rings, for carrying with the people & presence of God
2. If our public sacrifice is prominent, then our public service will prevail in the kingdom of God.
3. Philippians 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.
Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.
4. Safety and security are best felt when the instruments that make us safe are best displayed (see the fire EXIT signs, the fire extinguishers, the safety lights...)
5. Friend, God is always near and ready to help you to freedom in Christ and new life if you will come today to Jesus. This church altar represents a public, prominent and ever-present place to come to Jesus—will you come to Jesus today?

Conc: Publically declare your faith ...with equal opportunity ...with God's provision ...for God's service.

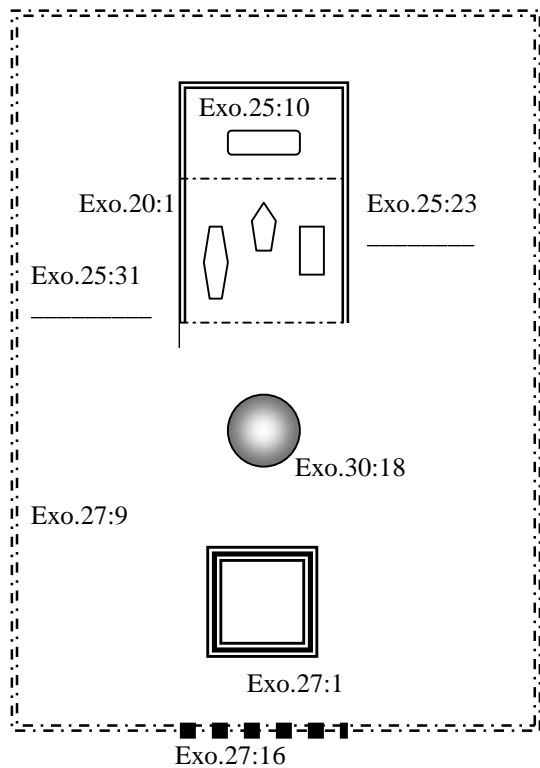


Children's Challenge

Complete & Return to Pastor: 1=sweet 4=chalk-art print 8=Christian Book
16=Mini-New Testament 32=Leather Bound Large New Testament

Exodus 27:1-8 says that there was an _____
just inside the gate of the court.

Label each part according to the Bible verse listed...



MY NAME is _____

today's date is _____



"Welcoming Your Family into God's Family!"
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