

Golden Candlestick--God's Divine Work

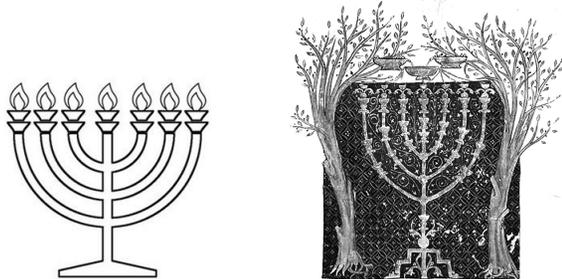
Word

Scripture Reference

Zechariah 4:1-10

Discussion Questions

1. Share about a time when you have tried your best, but still failed.
2. The people of God were allowed by King Cyrus to return to Jerusalem from exile. They were full of hope; they were going to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem that was destroyed by their enemy. God raised up Zechariah to take the challenge and commissioned him to lead the work. Zerubbabel was given the task of rebuilding the temple while Zechariah gave the moral and spiritual support and encouragement to the people. Read Zechariah 4:1-10. This passage tells us how God takes care of His work. In the Old Testament, the golden candlestick was found in the tabernacle (left). However, the golden candlestick in this passage looks a bit different (right). In both sides of Zechariah's candlestick were olive trees; there is also an oil reservoir on top, and the branches are interconnected to each other. How is serving the Lord symbolized in this candlestick?



- a. Bowl on the top flows olive oil—supplied by God—down by gravity (v. 2). It symbolizes God's provision flowing down for His work. He is responsible for His work. Share with the

group how God has been supporting your needs in your ministry at home, at school, or at work. Is His provision just for physical or material needs? How is Jesus' power enough when you witness to others about His love through the gospel (Matthew 28:18)?

- b. Each of the seven branches is interconnected to each other. When you serve the Lord, you are not alone. You are interconnected to other Christians, helping each other. How is this picture true in your church? Discuss how each ministry are interconnected to each other, and how this structure impacts the work of the Lord.
 - c. Two olive trees on each side of the candlestick represented the two anointed ones (Zerubbabel represented the government while Zechariah was the high priest to give spiritual leadership). These two living olive trees were continually supplying oil to the branches and from then throughout the candlestick (v. 3). Everyone is important, but God appointed leaders to lead. Why is it so important to be soaked in the Word of God in order to lead and serve others? How important is prayer to supply "oil" to God's work?
3. The angel gave four clarifications on how to serve God.
 - a. God's Work is by His Spirit (v. 6). It is not by might (quantity or number of people) nor by power (specialty) that we can do the work of God, but by the working of the Spirit. With Him, you can do something. Discuss how you can enlist the working of the Holy Spirit in your life and ministry. What happens when you do the work of God alone instead of working with Him?
 - b. There are no great mountains (v. 7). Nothing is impossible to God! Rebuilding the temple was not impossible to God because with Him the mountain can be a level ground. Share an experience of how a seemingly impossible thing became a reality because God was at work in your life.
 - c. God is Author and Finisher (v. 8-9). When God starts something, He will finish it as well. Discuss how difficult it is to finish something that you have started. What difference does God make when you start something with Him? Is it

possible that He would start something with you and allow someone else to finish the work? How should this encourage you when you pray for unsaved loved ones or friends?

- d. Small is big to God (v. 10). The older Jews were discouraged when they saw that the new temple would not match the size of the previous temple built by King Solomon. However, God doesn't look at the "bigness" or "smallness" of what you do for Him. What really matters to God? How does the fact that it's not the quantity but the quality and the sincerity of what you do that matters to God encourage you to serve Him?

Walk

*Hear ye the Master's call, "Give Me thy best!"
For, be it great or small, that is His test.
Do then the best you can, not for reward,
Not for the praise of men, but for the Lord.
Every work for Jesus will be blest,
But He asks from everyone his best.
Our talents may be few, these may be small,
But unto Him is due our best, our all.*

In God's divine work, He provides for every need. His people are interconnected and help each other. God uses anointed leaders to supply "oil," or to lead and encourage His people. It is very encouraging and reassuring that God's work is by His Spirit, and that nothing is impossible to Him—you can accomplish great things with Him. He is the author and finisher of His divine work, and for Him, whatever we do in His Name is something big. How does these facts give you a better perspective of your service to God. How do you give your best to Him?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for Your provisions for my daily needs. Thank You also that when You call me to serve You, I can certainly be provided for everything I need because of the continues flowing of "oil" and strength from You. Help me to always be dependent of You, that with conviction I will say that it is not by my own might nor power that I can accomplish something, but only through the Holy Spirit. Help me to humbly walk with You each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.