

A Real Game Changer

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(Hebrews 9:11-12; 23-26)



I hear the expression often, “That’s a real game changer.” A game changer quickly changes the way that something is done, thought about, or made. A game changer quickly changes everything. The game changer that I have in mind begins with Paul’s instructions for believers not to look upon things that are seen but rather things that are not seen. How can one actually see things that are not seeable? Amazingly, Jesus asked us to do this very thing. He said, “Let those who have eyes to see, see.” It is obvious that He was not speaking of physical eyesight. He was speaking of seeing with the mind’s eye.

There is one invisible truth that, when seen, is a game changer. It has everything to do with God’s giving Moses the original plans to build the very first tabernacle. God told him to make sure that he built with special specs (Exodus 25:40). It seems like a strange request.

Let’s revisit briefly some of the furniture and the operation of the Old Testament tabernacle. The main structure contained two rooms. The first room was called the Holy Place. It contained two pieces of furniture: the table of showbread and the golden lampstand. These represented Jesus Christ as the bread of life and the light of the world. Israel’s priests would go into this room often to perform their ministry. The second room was called the Holy of Holies. It contained only one piece of furniture, the ark of the covenant. The ark was a little box made of acacia wood covered by a solid gold plate called “the mercy seat.” At each end of the ark, looking down on the mercy seat, was a replica of two angels.

Inside the ark were three seemingly strange articles: a pot containing fragments of manna, a piece of Aaron’s rod that had budded, and shards of broken tablets of the Ten Commandments. These objects represented Israel’s rebellion against God. Shortly after the exodus, the Jews revolted against God’s provision of food (represented by the manna), against God’s leadership (represented by the rod), and against God’s law (represented by the Ten Commandments). Simply said, the people sinned against God. God clearly specified that the only payment He would accept for sin was death. The Jews were supposed to die. The eyes of the angel were symbolically glaring down on the objects in the ark seemingly whispering, “Death.” This is why the gold plate of the mercy seat was so very important.

Once every year on the Day of Atonement the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies alone. He was the only one permitted in that room and only on that special day. What happened in that little room was to be out of the sight of the people. The high priest would take a small vat of blood and sprinkle it on the mercy seat. The blood implied that a death had occurred. That death

would come between the judgmental eyes of the angels and the representatives of sin found in the box. It would satisfy God's divine justice against Israel's sin for a year. Year after year the ceremony went on. Now let's expose the amazing invisible truth behind it all.

Remember that the high priest went into the Holy of Holies alone, away from all human sight. He was a representation of our real high priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, who appeared in the presence of God in heaven, far away from the probing eyes of all human creation. Wow! What a thought! The writer of Hebrews unravels for us an amazing portrait of God's supernatural wisdom. "Christ came as high priest of a tabernacle not made with human hands." This is a reference to the real tabernacle in heaven from which the earthly pattern built by Moses was taken. Jesus Christ is the high priest of that which is not of this creation. It was into this heavenly tabernacle that Christ entered the Most Holy Place, once for all, obtaining eternal redemption.

The Lord Jesus Christ never once entered the physical earthly tabernacle made with hands, but He went into heaven itself to appear in the presence of God for us. After Christ made one (heavenly) sacrifice for all sins forever, He sat down at the right hand of the Father. It is from this vantage point that He is waiting for His enemies to become His footstool. Amazing! What a remarkable glimpse into God's unseen world.

It is interesting that at the foot of the cross upon Mount Calvary many eyes looked intently at a man dying there. It was there that Paul's unseen truth comes into crystal clear focus. In heaven, out of the sight of any human eye, our high priest was Himself becoming sin for us. He was performing His work before the real mercy seat of God. He forever satisfied God as more than sufficient payment for our sin. What can we add to that? It was a supernatural game changer.