

Sermon Outline

May 17 Matthew 23
"Softening a Stiff Neck"

✝ The tone

✝ The content: seven warnings

✝ The invitation

✝ Points to Ponder to Prepare

May 24 Zechariah 4;
Exodus 25:31-40; 27:20-21
"Unlimited and Unending"

This week is a stand alone message for Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is the day we remember and celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit after Jesus returned to Heaven.

Our big picture cycle is rotating through a gospel, an Old Testament series, and a New Testament letter. On May 31, we will return to a series in the life of King David.

As we celebrate Pentecost this morning, we will compare the design and description of two "lampstands." The lampstands are like candlestands, but instead of spots to insert solid wax tapers, they have 7 little bowls where a wick can rest to pull up and burn olive oil.

The first lampstand is described in Exodus when God gives Moses detailed instructions for how to build the tabernacle and all its furnishings. You can read it in the Exodus passages listed above. The priests had a duty to tend the lamps so they never went out. They were the only source of light in the Holy Place in the tabernacle or temple.

The second lampstand is described in a vision that God gave to the prophet Zechariah. It is a same description, but what is clear is this lampstand never needs to be tended and refilled. It has an unlimited and unending supply of oil direct from God's provision.

This is a picture for us of life in the Holy Spirit. See John 7:37-39.

Scripture readings for the week

Sunday May 17	Deuteronomy 13-14
Monday May 18	Deuteronomy 15
Tuesday May 19	Deuteronomy 16
Wed May 20	Deuteronomy 17
Thursday May 21	Deuteronomy 18
Friday May 22	Deuteronomy 19
Saturday May 23	Deuteronomy 20-21
Sunday May 24	Deuteronomy 22-23

Prayer Focus

- ✝ Our prayer focus this week are prayers of thanks for our many volunteers.
- ✝ Give God praise and thanks for the way he pours out his Holy Spirit on his people and gives us gifts.
- ✝ Give God thanks and praise for the generous and faithful ways people use their spiritual gifts in our church and community.
- ✝ Give thanks and praise to God for the spiritual gifts he has given you.
- ✝ Pray he will show us new ways to use our gifts to bless him and love our neighbors and community.
- ✝ God is so good!!