

Zechariah 4:1-10

### **The Gold Lampstand and the Two Olive Trees**

4 Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. 2 He asked me, "What do you see?"

I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. 3 Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."

4 I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"

5 He answered, "Do you not know what these are?"

"No, my lord," I replied.

6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

7 "What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'"

8 Then the word of the Lord came to me: 9 "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.

10 "Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the Lord that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?"

Last week we saw that Joshua the High Priest was recommissioned to his role by being given a fresh set of clothing for his old clothes were dirty. These new clothes represented his forgiveness. Our reading today puts the spotlight on Zerubbabel, the Governor of Jerusalem. Zechariah sees a golden lampstand representing the word of the Lord for the Governor. He would have three words to finish the work he started, having set the new temple's foundation, and complete it with the final stone, the capstone. Zerubbabel was told not to 'despise the day of small things,' which could mean he was frustrated with the progress of the construction. So, he needed to be encouraged to continue to completion. But the main and perhaps the most famous exhortation is 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my, Spirit says the Lord Almighty.' The implications of this verse resound through the centuries that we keep on trying to do things in our limited physical strength or by political/positional power. Human ingenuity has its limits, but God's Spirit has none of these limitations, for He is the Lord Almighty. Zerubbabel was being reminded that he could only accomplish this God-given task by His God-given Spirit, and the same goes for us.

- 1) Why do you think we keep trying to do things on our terms rather than rely on His Spirit?
- 2) In what ways have you experienced God's guidance and wisdom for a situation or person?
- 3) Read Luke 11:9-13, comparing it with our reading. Could this change how we pray for people or situations?