

# Exodus 38:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

## Analysis

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The bronze laver (כִּיּוֹר נְחוֹשֶׁת, kiyor nechoshet) and its bronze base made 'of the lookingglasses of the women' (בְּמִרְאֹת הַצִּבְאוֹת, be-mar'ot ha-tzov'ot) demonstrates transformation—instruments of vanity become instruments of holiness. Women donated polished bronze mirrors for this laver where priests washed before serving, teaching that self-examination (mirrors) should lead to purification (washing). The sacrificed vanity of godly women provided means for priestly cleansing, prefiguring how believers' surrender of worldly concerns enables ministry. Water in bronze basin represents word (bronze judgment) producing cleansing (water).

## Historical Context

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The bronze mirrors donated by serving women were polished metal, valuable personal items used for grooming. Melting these for the laver demonstrated genuine sacrifice—women giving up personal vanity for communal holiness. The laver stood between the bronze altar and tabernacle entrance, requiring priests to wash hands and feet before entering (Exodus 30:18-21).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

### Study Questions

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1. What does transformation of mirrors (self-examination) into a laver (cleansing) teach about relationship between conviction and sanctification?
2. How does women's sacrifice of vanity enabling priestly service illustrate believers surrendering worldly concerns for ministry?

### Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעַשׂ	אֵת	הַכִּיּוֹר	נְחֹשֶׁת	וְאֵת	כַּנּוֹ	נְחֹשֶׁת
And he made		the laver	of brass		and the foot	of brass
H6213	H853	H3595	H5178	H853	H3653	H5178
בְּמִרְאָת		צָבָא		אֲשֶׁר		צָבָא
of the lookingglasses		of the women assembling				of the women assembling
H4759		H6633		H834		H6633
פֶּתַח	אֶת־הַ	מוֹעֵד:				
at the door	of the tabernacle	of the congregation				
H6607	H168	H4150				

### Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 2:37** (Temple): And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

**1 Samuel 2:22** (Temple): Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

**Exodus 40:7** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

**1 Timothy 5:5** (Parallel theme): Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

**Psalms 26:6** (Parallel theme): I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD:

**Zechariah 13:1** (Parallel theme): In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

**John 13:10** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

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