

September 3, 2014
“God’s Pattern for Meaningful Worship-Surrender”
Exodus 35:1-36:7

A. Purpose of Giving “Take up an offering among you for the Lord” (35:5)

1. *An offering is a test of priorities.* Jesus said, **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”** (Matt. 6:21) Giving an offering to the Lord is a statement that His kingdom has more validity to us than anything an earthly kingdom can offer.
2. *An offering is a testimony of our purpose* – Paul wrote to the Corinthians **“...do all to the glory of God”** (1 Cor. 10:31b) and **“...God loves a cheerful giver.”** (2 Cor. 9:7b). God loves givers because He is a giver (John 3:16).
3. *An offering teaches us His power* – when you give away your resources, you’re dependent upon His resources.

B. People Who Give “Let everyone whose heart is willing bring this as the Lord’s offering...” (35:5).

Financial Freedom is the ability to respond to God’s prompting with “Yes Lord.” Financial bondage, on the other hand, responds to God’s prompting with “I’d like to, but... (I’m in debt; I have other obligations; I place more value on material things, etc...).

C. Prerequisites of Giving

1. A willing giver is not determined by income. Some brought gold (5) and some goat’s hair (6). All gifts were accepted and no level of giving was recognized above another.
2. A willing giver is not determined by ability. God pointed out “gifted artisans” by name (36:1); but, the implication is that the vast majority of givers were unskilled.
3. A willing giver is characterized by two attributes:
 - a. A stirred heart (21) – sensitivity to God’s prompting.
 - b. A willing spirit (21) – willingness to respond.

D. Product of Giving “much more than enough” (36:5) “Indeed, too much” (36:7)

Perhaps this is the only time you’ll ever read of a leader appointed by God saying “quit giving” (36:6). However, when all of God’s people respond to His stirring and give with willing hearts, this should be the common result.

Exo 35:1-36:7 Moses assembled the entire Israelite community and said to them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do: (2) For six days work is to be done, but on the seventh day you are to have a holy day, a Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD. Anyone who does work on it must

be executed. (3) Do not light a fire in any of your homes on the Sabbath day." (4) Then Moses said to the entire Israelite community, "This is what the LORD has commanded: (5) Take up an offering among you for the LORD. Let everyone whose heart is willing bring this as the LORD's offering: gold, silver, and bronze; (6) blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; fine linen and goat hair; (7) ram skins dyed red and manatee skins; acacia wood; (8) oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; (9) and onyx with gemstones to mount on the ephod and breastpiece. (10) "Let all the skilled craftsmen among you come and make everything that the LORD has commanded: (29) So the Israelites brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts prompted them to bring *something* for all the work that the LORD, through Moses, had commanded to be done. (30) Moses then said to the Israelites: "Look, the LORD has appointed by name Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. (31) He has filled him with God's Spirit, with wisdom, understanding, and ability in every kind of craft (32) to design artistic works in gold, silver, and bronze, (33) to cut gemstones for mounting, and to carve wood for work in every kind of artistic craft. (34) He has also given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, *the ability* to teach *others*. (35) He has filled them with skill to do all the work of a gem cutter; a designer; an embroiderer in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen; and a weaver. They can do every kind of craft and design artistic designs. (36:1) Bezalel, Oholiab, and all the skilled people are to work based on everything the LORD has commanded. The LORD has given them wisdom and understanding to know how to do all the work of constructing the sanctuary." (2) So Moses summoned Bezalel, Oholiab, and every skilled person in whose heart the LORD had placed wisdom, everyone whose heart moved him, to come to the work and do it. (3) They took from Moses' presence all the contributions that the Israelites had brought for the task of making the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. (4) Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work for the sanctuary came one by one from the work they were doing (5) and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than is needed for the construction of the work the LORD commanded to be done." (6) After Moses gave an order, they sent a proclamation throughout the camp: "Let no man or woman make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." So the people stopped. (7) The materials were sufficient for them to do all the work. There was more than enough.

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