

EXODUS: The Person, Promise, and Power of God

Exodus 36 – Worship and Generosity, Pt 2.

“The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do.”

So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp,

“Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.”

So the people were restrained from bringing,

for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

Exodus 36:5-7

A review: Biblical conditions of generosity:

_____ to the will of the Sovereign King

_____ for ...

... the amazing _____ shown to them

... the _____ of God toward them

_____ to honor and glorify Him among all people

_____ and centrality of God in their lives*

True generosity flows from a right understanding of _____:

All that ___ is _____. We are “stewards”, not “owners”. (Psalm 50:7-11)

He _____ what He _____. (1 Chronicles 29:12-14)

He blesses us for _____.

He does not generously _____ so that we may selfishly _____.

_____ - *yes!* (1 Timothy 6:17)

_____ - *no!* (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

He blesses us to show His _____ for us. (Romans 8:32)

He blesses us to _____ for us. (Philippians 4:19)

He blesses us to _____ with us. (Genesis 12:2-3)

He blesses us so that we will bless _____. (Deuteronomy 15:9-10)

He blesses us to for His own _____ (Proverbs 3:6, 9-10) and _____. (Haggai 1:4-10)

Stewardship is an act of _____ first (Exodus 36:1) that becomes an act of _____ when it comes from a heart that _____. (Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31; Matthew 15:7-9)

A case study – The Contributions to the Tabernacle

With this passage Moses augmented the command-fulfillment pattern with a heartwarming story about how enthusiastically the people responded to the call for donations of materials needed for the tabernacle. This is just the sort of account that takes away much of the tedium of reading the fulfillment chapters.

The fulfillment takes on special meaning when it is understood that it happened in abundance, from willing hearts gladly giving, and that nothing needed for the tabernacle construction was ever lacking. When a community is asked to back something as major as the tabernacle project was and does so fully and rapidly, it speaks volumes about that community's unity of purpose, its solidarity in responding to the divine call. The people who some weeks earlier had been defiant and degenerate in their faith (chap. 32) now joined together to make sure that what God had asked them to do would not fail to happen. This constitutes further evidence of their repentance for their earlier involvement in the golden young bull idolatry and their present confidence in Moses and his mediation of God's instructions for covenantally faithful worship.¹

Several lessons for us:

- 1) They used the _____ and _____ God gave them. (36:1)
What has God given me?
- 2) God moved their _____ and they responded _____. (36:2)
What is God moving my "heart" to do?
- 3) They continued to give freely - until Moses had to tell them to _____.! (36:3-7)
No one had to coerce or guilt them. "Free will" is heart-driven generosity.
- 4) They committed to a _____ work because God was beautiful to them! (36:8ff)

And remember what it is all for ...

⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary, **that I may dwell in their midst.** (Exodus 25:8)

⁴⁵ I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God. (Exodus 29:45-46)

And what it all foreshadows ...

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and **dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

And still to come ...

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man.** He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (Revelation 21:3)

Next week: Exodus 37 - Worship and Holiness

¹ Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, vol. 2, The New American Commentary, 760.