

EXODUS 35:20-29; II CORINTHIANS 9:6-8**LESSON: GIVING FROM A GENEROUS HEART** —May 6, 2018**INTRODUCTION:**

In **Chapter 34**, God makes a new Covenant with the children of Israel because they had broken it with the golden calf incident. He's always talking through Moses to the people. And God would again give a copy of the Ten Commandments to him again. When Moses comes off the mountain after communing with God, the people are afraid to come near him because of the rays of light beaming from his face. So, Moses had to veil his face when talking with men, but removed it while talking with God.

In **Chapter 35** Moses reveals God's words that had been said to him and commanded to the people. They were to work six days only, and on the seventh day a solemn rest, and that means don't even light the fires (**35:1-3**). All those who have a generous heart were to bring special offerings to God that was commanded by Him. And these things were named (**35:4-9**). Moses asked people with various skills and abilities to make the tabernacle. They must make everything that the LORD had shown to Moses (**35:10**)—(**35:11** ¹the tabernacle, its tent, its covering, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets); (**35:12** the ark and its poles, with the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering); (**35:13** the table and its poles, all its utensils, and the showbread); (**35:14** also the lampstand for the light, its utensils, its lamps, and the oil for the light); (**35:15** the incense altar, its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, and the screen for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle); (**35:16** the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, all its utensils, and the laver and its base); (**35:17** the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court); (**35:18** the pegs of the tabernacle, the pegs of the court, and their cords); (**35:19** the garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy place—the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests.

LESSON: I. GENEROUS HEARTS EXODUS 35:20-21

35:20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. Upon hearing the initial list of things that were needed to make the tabernacle, the people then departed.

35:21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. Those whose hearts were stirred, and spirits were willing, returned with the Lord's offering of materials for the Tabernacle of the congregation, its equipment, and holy garments.

II. GENEROUS OFFERINGS EXODUS 35:22-29

35:22 And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold

¹ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+35%3A10-19&version=NKJV>
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unto the Lord. Both men and women had willing hearts and therefore brought bracelets, and earrings, rings, tablets, and all jewels of gold. Every man offered an offering of gold jewelry and gold objects.

35:23 And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them. There were other men that brought blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen; goat's hair, red skins of rams and badger's skins.

35:24 Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the Lord's offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it. Others brought silver and bronze for their offering to the Lord; and some brought arcadia wood needed for the construction of the tabernacle.

35:25 And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen. The women skilled in sewing and spinning brought what they spun with their hands, preparing blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen.

35:26 And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair. And then there were the women who had stirred hearts and used their wisdom to spin the goat hair.

35:27 And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;— Onyx stones, and stones that were to be set for the priest's ephod and for the priest's breastplate were brought by the leaders or rulers.

35:28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. The rulers also brought spice and oil for the light and anointing oil for the sweet incense.

35:29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses. Every man and woman of the Israelites who wanted to freely bring an offering to the Lord gave these gifts because they wanted to. These gifts were used to make everything by the Lord's command to Moses.

III. GENEROUS GIFTS 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Paul's attention is turned to some positive instructions and encouragement regarding giving. One's return is determined in his investment. If we look at a farmer who plants few seeds, he will have a small harvest, but if he plants alot, he will have a large harvest. In our day to day life if we give little with regret, we get little. However, Paul assures the Corinthians that if they give generously, they will reap generously. God is the provider and makes every provision. The person who gives only a little will receive only a little in return. Don't let a lack of faith keep you from giving freely and generously.

9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. Paul tells them to purposely decide in their hearts how much to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a person who gives cheerfully. Four things to consider:

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1. **The giver must give as he purposes in his heart.** This does not mean that people are not to be encouraged to give nor that they cannot be stirred to give. It means that a person is...
 - to think about the need.
 - to think about what he should give sacrificially.
 - to make a deliberate decision about what he should sacrifice in order to give what he should.
 - to give exactly what he should give.
2. **The giver must not give grudgingly;** nor out of sorrow, not with reluctance or regret.
3. **The giver must not give out of necessity.** A person's gift is not acceptable to God when he...
 - is forced to give.
 - gives because he fears what others will think.
 - gives just to please others.
 - gives to keep others from pestering him.
 - gives out of a desire for personal honor and recognition.
4. **The giver must give cheerfully** if he wishes God to accept his gift. The giver is delighted to give just as Jesus Christ who willingly and cheerfully gave all He was and had, to meet the needs of the world.

9:8 **And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:**— God possesses an infinite amount of grace, and He gives it lavishly without holding back. When the believer generously and wisely gives of his material resources, God graciously replenishes them so one would always have plenty, and will not be in need.

SUMMARY:

Upon hearing the initial list of things that were needed to make the tabernacle, the people departed. Those with generous hearts were stirred, and spirits were willing, returned with the Lord's offering of materials for the Tabernacle of the congregation, its equipment, and holy garments (**35:20-21**).

Both men and women had willing hearts and therefore brought generous offerings of bracelets, and earrings, rings, tablets, and all jewels of gold. Every man offered an offering of gold jewelry and gold objects. There were other men that brought blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen; goat's hair, red skins of rams and badger's skins. Others brought silver and bronze for their offering to the Lord; and some brought arcadia wood needed for the construction. The women skilled in sewing and spinning brought what they had spun with their hands; preparing blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen. And then there were the women who had stirred hearts used their wisdom to spin the goat hair. Onyx stones and stones that were to be set for the priest's ephod and for the priest's breastplate were brought by the leaders or rulers. The rulers also brought spice and oil for the light and anointing oil for the sweet incense. Every man and woman of the Israelites who wanted to freely bring an offering to the Lord gave these gifts because they wanted to. These gifts were used to make everything by the Lord's command to Moses (**35:22-29**).

Paul tells the Corinthians that those who give only a little will receive only a little in return, and those that generously give, will reap generously. Paul tells them to purposely decide in their hearts how much to give, not grudgingly, or of necessity because God loves a cheerful giver. God possesses an infinite amount of grace to abound toward us so that we will have all sufficiency in all things, and abound in every good work (**9:6-8**).

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