Exodus 35-38 Building Ministry God's Way

Someone once described that ministry in the church can often resemble a football game –

A)Where you have 30K people in the stands watching and cheering on 22 people down on the field do all the work

B)Although that is true of some churches I have thankful that has never been the case here at CV.

C)We have also had a relatively small staff that relies heavily upon a pretty large volunteer base from within our church

D)Consequently our church has always been able to do more ministry than a church our size – should be doing

1)Because of the number of people here who love to volunteer and use their gifts in God's Kingdom

E)As a Pastor I am extremely grateful for that.

Our church is probably around 1200 adults who call CV their church home and at one count we had over 400 people who served

A)That is a 33% ratio – which is pretty amazing

B)In most churches the amount of people who serve compared to those who just attend is 15-20%

C)So we are doing pretty well here at CV – but we are not satisfied with that % here is why?

Our Mandate from the Lord – Ephesians 4

[S1] 11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,(LEADERS) 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ Ephesians 4:11-13

So the goal of the pastors and leaders is to help equip the saints – the church body for the work of the Ministry.

[S2] A)That equipping involves helping the body discover who they are in Christ. V.13 the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

B)Helping them discover what their gifts are – Equipping

[S3] C)And helping them discover how their gifts can be used in the church context as well as in reaching the lost. for the edifying of the body of Christ, [13] till we all come to the unity of the faith

Continues v.15

[S4] speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head —Christ— [16] from whom the whole body, **joined and knit together by what every joint supplies,** according to the effective working by which **every part does its share,** causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:15-16

D)Every part is connected together – Knit – joints and muscles and ligaments –
1)Every part does it's share

E)What is my part? What is my lane? – How am I supposed to run What are my gifts – where do they fit

So the goal is 100% engagement: That is when the church starts to look like a function like a real body – not a sporting event

A)That is the goal – the design and that has always been the heart of God for how his people were to function.

B)We see a great example of that in the section of Exodus we are looking at tonight.

C)We spent a lot of time going through all the details that God gave for the instructions of the tabernacle

D)Now we come to the section where the construction is going to begin

Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, “These are the words which the Lord has commanded you to do:
2 Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the Lord. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.
3 You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day.”

[S5] Now some of you might be wondering why does God once again repeat the instructions about the keeping the Sabbath – 4th time.

A)I think the reason that God repeats these instructions here is for the builders for two reasons

B)See as they were getting started in the building of the Tabernacle it would have been very easy to rationalize in this way.

C)We are engaged in a holy project here for the Lord – it is a priority for us – we need to work through until we get it done.
1)We will work on the sabbath.

That is an easy thing to have happen for those who are in ministry.

A)I talk to pastors all the time who struggle to have healthy devotional lives.

B)Easy to think: I am going to be studying the Bible today – it is what I do on most days – I don’t need to have devotions

C)So Devotional time gets replaced by Prep time – or study time.

But listen and understand this: I need to keep my devotional life separate from my sermon prep and study for the church.

A)Even though I always get ministered to and challenged when I am studying for my Bible studies

B)But my focus is a little different: My focus is – Lord what do you want to say to the church of which I am a part – What say to US ?

C)But in my own personal devotional time – the focus is just me. Lord what are you wanting to do in my heart.
1)What needs to change – what truth do I need to grab a hold of ?

D)What promise do you want me to claim – ME AND JESUS –PERIOD!

E)So that is one reason I believe the Lord repeats the Sabbath principle at this time.
1)No exceptions – it applies even to those in the ministry!

A reminder to keep the Sabbath is also great for those in ministry to pause and reflect upon the goodness of God – in order to remind of us of why we are serving in the first place.

[S7] 4 And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying: 5 'Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze; 6 blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; 7 ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; 8 oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; 9 onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

Now here is another important principle for ministry.
A)V.4 Moses spoke to the whole congregation – (whole church is included in this appeal to give and to serve) not selective

B)However the Lord only wants those who participate who have V.5 a willing heart.

C)Although God wants 100% participation – no one is forced.

[S8] Peter writing to Elders in 1 Peter 5:
[S9] 2 Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of **compulsion** but **willingly,** **(never a half to but a get to)** as God would have you; not out of greed for money but eagerly; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock 1 Peter 5:2-3 CSB

It is really a matter of stewardship: As a pastor here God has entrusted the care of this flock into my oversight – other pastors elders

A)We are to serve here willingly – Joy – a privilege – not for a salary or anything like that

B)We seek to take care of the flock God has entrusted to us.

C)So God looks for Willing servants

The fact of the matter is all of us have been made stewards by the Lord

A)Entrusted with Talents- gifts – Treasures – our resources – and Time

B)God wants us to use what we have been given by him – entrusted by him for his glory – for his kingdom.

C)Accomplish Ephesians 4 mandate and calling – Building up the body for the work of the ministry –

1)Helping people meet Jesus and grow in Jesus –

[S10] So the Lord says this to us about our talents, treasures and time - The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—**not reluctantly or out of compulsion**, since God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Cheerful = Hilarious it is my joy to give and serve to use my talents, give of my treasures and my time to the Lord's work.

A)Not out of compulsion – not forced or manipulated –

B)Melodyland - $1000 – stand – pressure.

C)Giving for all the wrong reasons – scandals – horrible

D)So the Lord wants 100% participation but he is only asking those who were willing to participate from

In what happens next we see the beauty of the body.

10 ‘All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the Lord has commanded: 11 the tabernacle, its tent, its covering, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; 12 the ark and its poles, with the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering; 13 the table and its poles, all its utensils, and the showbread; 14 also the lampstand for the light, its utensils, its lamps, and the oil for the light; 15 the incense altar, its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, and the screen for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle; 16 the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, all its utensils, and the laver and its base; 17 the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court; 18 the pegs of the tabernacle, the pegs of the court, and their cords; 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.’ ”

So the people are called to come and take up the work. – No one is put on the spot – no one embarrassed

20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. 21 Then everyone came **whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord’s offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments**.

So the implication is this they all went and sought the Lord and the one’s who’s hearts were stirred - and who’s spirit was willing came back

A)The importance of prayer

B)Don’t let anyone here ever pressure you into serving – LISTEN – the KEY PRINCIPLE is never the NEED – it is always THE CALL

C)Always needs – but we don’t want you to just respond to a need we want you to pray to see if you are called to respond to the need

D)Trained our pastors and staff – never put pressure – Tell me

E)Please pray: take a couple of weeks – talk to your family – spouse –

If I ask you to pray about something – don't assume – It must be God's will – Pastor Rob asked me ☺ NO
A)Half the time – you were referred or saw you and felt a nudge

B)And even if God did speak to me that you were the person – I wouldn't tell you that – no pressure –

C))I respect your relationship with God too much to do that – I believe God can speak to you – and confirm what I think he spoke to me

So when the need or opportunity is presented – that is what this was an opportunity to partner with God
A)God could have miraculously provided all the materials – out of thin air – but he didn't he wanted them involved

B)He could have dropped the tabernacle out of heaven – but he didn't he wanted them to participate – in building it

C)So this was an opportunity – for each of them – but God was only looking for those who's hearts were willing

So too when and opportunity is presented here – go pray – Lord do you want me to be a part of that.
A)Don't think – I don't have time – or I am not gifted enough – JUST PRAY

B)If the Lord wants you to do it and be a part of it – he will show you the things in your calendar that need to change
1)And he will equip you for the Work that he is calling you to do

C)He might even surprise you – You end up doing something that you would never imagine yourself doing

22 They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the Lord.

23 And every man, with whom was found blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, goats' hair, red skins of rams, and badger skins, brought them. 24 Everyone who offered an offering of silver or bronze brought the Lord's offering. And everyone with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it. 25 All the women who were gifted artisans spun yarn with their hands, and brought what they had spun, of blue, purple, and scarlet, and fine linen. 26 And all the women whose hearts stirred with wisdom spun yarn of goats' hair. 27 The **rulers** brought onyx stones, and the stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate, 28 and spices and oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. 29 The children of Israel brought a **freewill offering to the Lord**, **all the men and women** whose hearts were **willing** to bring material for all kinds of work which the Lord, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.

So here we see that the Lord is stirring the hearts of the men and the women to be involved in the work.

A)The rulers – those in leadership- those who had means – brought some of the more expensive items

B)So everyone is pitching and doing their share as they were entrusted by the Lord.

C)So the Congregation is working together in this effort to fulfill the mission of God – building the Tabernacle

We the church have the same calling to partner together in the mission of God – Build up the church – reach the world with the gospel!

[S11] 27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1:27

Notice what God does next he raises up, calls and gifts – leaders

30 And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, 32 to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.

God calls Bazalel to oversee this project – He had gifted him with wisdom and understanding: How things come together. Gifted craftsman
A)But also a good teacher –

34 “And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35 He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver—those who do every work and those who design artistic works.

B)**In the Body of Christ – Leaders – vision direction – teach**
1)Managers – rally the team– organize the team execute the plan
2)Doers – those who can carry out the word –

C)Takes everyone

Now what happens next is every Pastors dream come true.
And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the Lord has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the Lord has commanded.”
GROUP EFFORT

2 Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, **everyone whose heart was stirred**, to come and do the work. 3 And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him **freewill offerings every morning**. **ALL IN each day.**

4 Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, 5 and they spoke to Moses, saying, “The people bring much **more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded us to do.”**
6 So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, “Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.” And the people were restrained from bringing, 7 for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done—indeed too much.

WOW!!! THAT WOULD BE AMAZING!- No more offering or giving announcement.

Now the rest of what is laid out for us in chapter 36-38 is the carrying out of the instructions we have already looked at in detail.
A)Summarize this for us tonight

[S12] V.8-19 It is the sowing of the Curtains and Coverings of the Tabernacle which included the artistic design of the Cherubim

V.20-34 The putting together of all of the boards and the sockets – incredible details

[S13] V.35-38 The Veil that hung between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies
As well as the screen door into the Holy Place

[S14] Then in Chapter 37 We see that Bezalel takes it upon himself to craft all of the intricate aspects of the Holy Vessels
V.1-9 The Ark of the Covenant – including the Mercy seat and the Cheribum on top – intricate engravings -

[S15] V.10-16 Vessels for the Holy place – starts with the Table of showbread

[S16] V.17-24 The Golden Lampstand that was hammered out of one piece of gold. – Very gifted and talented

[S17] V.25-29 The Altar of Incense and the incense oil

Ch38
[S18] V.1-7 Altar for burnt offering

V.8 the Bronze Laver for washing

V.9-20 Line Fence with the poles and sockets – Entry way

[21] This is the inventory of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the Testimony, which was counted according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest.

[22] Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD had commanded Moses. [23] And with him *was* Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and designer, a weaver of blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and of fine linen.

[24] All the gold that was used in all the work of the holy *place*, that is, the gold of the offering, was twenty-nine talents and seven hundred and thirty shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. [25] And the silver from those who were numbered of the congregation *was* one hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary: [26] a bekah for each man (*that is*, half a shekel, according to the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone included in the numbering from twenty years old and above, for six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty *men*. [27] And from the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil: one hundred sockets from the hundred talents, one talent for each socket. [28] Then from the one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five *shekels* he made hooks for the pillars, overlaid their capitals, and made bands for them.

[29] The offering of bronze *was* seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels. [30] And with it he made the sockets for the door of the tabernacle of meeting, the bronze altar, the bronze grating for it, and all the utensils for the altar, [31] the sockets for the court all around, the bases for the court gate, all the pegs for the tabernacle, and all the pegs for the court all around.

Using an estimated 11.4-gram sanctuary shekel, 3,000 shekels per talent, and today's approximate market prices.

Gold — Exodus 38:24

$120,300,263

29 talents + 730 shekels · approximately 2,205 pounds

Silver — Exodus 38:25–28

$4,990,548

100 talents + 1,775 shekels · approximately 7,584 pounds

Bronze — Exodus 38:29–31

$30,855

70 talents + 2,400 shekels · approximately 5,338 pounds

Market assumptions: gold $3,741.30/troy oz; silver $45.12/troy oz; copper $5.78/lb as a proxy for bronze.

[S19] Total cost $125.3 Million - Uncomfortable ? – Extravagant – Catholic

As we consider the extraordinary amounts of gold, silver, and bronze used in constructing the Tabernacle,
A)I think there is a powerful illustration here for us.

B)God did not command Moses to build something merely functional.
C)He commanded the construction of something beautiful, carefully designed, and made with exceptional craftsmanship.

But the Tabernacle was never intended to draw attention to the greatness of Israel.
A)It was intended to draw attention to the greatness of Israel's God.

B)Picture of Heaven

C)Here are some lessons that we can learn from the construction of the Tabernacle

[S19b] #1 God is into detail – nothing is by chance.
[S19c] #2 God deserves our very best. Pursue Excellence

#3 But The goal of excellence is not to impress people with what we have built, but to honor the God for whom we have built it.

It is really a matter of the heart
[S19d] Excellence asks, "How can we best honor God?" Opulence asks, "How impressive can we make this?"

[S20] The Balance between Excellence and Opulence

Excellence	**Opulence**
Seeks to honor God	Can seek to impress people
Values quality and purpose	Can emphasize luxury and appearance

Practices faithful stewardship Can encourage unnecessary excess

John 12 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard-

A)Oil of spikenard came from north India.

B) It was the fruit of a fibrous plant. from which was extruded a very earthy, spicy, scented oil.

C)And because of it coming from such a distance and being so rare, it was of great value

D)v.5 tells us it could have been sold for 300 denari – which was considered a years wage –

1)Today it would have been worth about $10K

Some Scholars believe that this costly oil of spikenard had been given to Mary by her father and was her dowry

A)The Dowry was a gift that a dad would give to his daughter and it was an investment – she brought into her marriage

B)We can't be sure if this was her dowry but it does create an interesting picture for us as believers – called the bride of Christ

C)It was definitely and extravagant act of worship on the part of Mary

We do extravagant things for those we love right.

A)A young man saves his money to buy an expensive ring – in order to propose to the girl of his dreams

B)A father works extra hrs and saves his money to take his family on a wonderful vacation –

1)something they will remember forever.

C)We are willing to make sacrifices when we are in love

D)That is why a guy will sit thru Pride and prejudice for the girl he loves –{ Just don't tell my friends

E)It is never wrong to do something extravagant for Jesus – when our heart and motive is right

God deserves our best, but giving God our best is not always the same as giving Him the most expensive. Excellence is measured not simply by what we spend, but by the heart, purpose, and faithfulness behind what we offer.