

## A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title  
Hope Before Generosity  
Exodus 35:4-9, 20-29

Slide 2:  
Exodus 35:4-9 (ESV)  
Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD’s contribution: gold, silver, and bronze; blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; goats’ hair, tanned rams’ skins, and goatskins; acacia wood, oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, and onyx stones and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

Slide 3:  
Exodus 35:20-29 (ESV)  
Then all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD’s contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the LORD. And every one who possessed blue or purple or scarlet yarns or fine linen or goats’ hair or tanned rams’ skins or goatskins brought them. Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the LORD’s contribution. And every one who possessed acacia wood of any use in the work brought it.

Slide 4:  
And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats’ hair. And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.

Slide 5:  
Legal freedom happens in a moment, but the habits created through the implications of that freedom take a lifetime.

Slide 6:  
Generosity was to be experienced in the community as a response to freedom; as a response to being fully and restoratively loved.

Slide 7:

**Why Were The Israelites So Generous?**

I. They gave because God commanded it, and they understood the need (Vision)

"Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the LORD."

Slide 8:

Vision for greater presence and the need for a tabernacle

Slide 9:

**Why Were The Israelites So Generous?**

I. They gave because God commanded it, and they understood the need (Vision)

II. They gave because the command was an opportunity to respond from their heart to God

Slide 10:

1) vs 5: "Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution"

2) vs 21: "And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution"

3) vs 22: "So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart"

4) vs 26: "All the women whose hearts stirred them"

5) vs 29: "All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD."

Slide 11:

Give in this "heart" way, or do not give at all.

Slide 12:

**Why Would Their Hearts Be Stirred?**

a) Because in the place of scarcity, threat and disobedience, they had met a God of abundance, security and restoration.

Slide 13:

The response to the "golden calf" incident was lacking in generosity and religiously motivated (not passionate enough)

Slide 14:

**Why Would Their Hearts Be Stirred?**

a) Because in the place of scarcity, threat and disobedience, they had met a God of abundance, security and restoration.

b) Because they were learning that God would never ask for anything that didn't belong to Him already.

Slide 15:

Exodus 12:36 (ESV)

And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Slide 16:

The "Tithe"

God was not asking them to give away 10% of what belonged to them. God was allowing them to have 90% of what belonged to Him.

Slide 17:

Exodus 36:6-7 (ESV)

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.

Slide 18:

What some may have "lost" by not giving:

- 1) Community Adherence (Being together through something)
- 2) Individual Spiritual Growth (Experiencing "your" part in what God is doing)

Slide 19:

Community Reflection

## **B. GROUP DISCUSSION**

1) Read Exodus 35:1 to Exodus 36:7. The teaching Sunday was focused on generosity. What forms of generosity do you see? Do you think there was excitement in the response? Why do you think the community responded so generously?

2) How do you understand the nuance between a "command" to give, but only for those "willing?"

3) Why was it maybe easier for them to understand that they were only giving some of all that God had given them....and why is it maybe more difficult for our people (today in America) to understand that same concept?

4) Should giving (or financial stewardship) be a personal and private matter? Why or why not?

5) What would need to happen with God or community for you or others to be more generous in spirit?

6) "Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open."- Corrie Ten Boom

In some things we give generously, but all belongs to God. How does this quote help us to be prepared for the things we don't give generously, but God asks for anyway?

7) Do you live like "How could I ask for more?" or "Why do I not have more?"

8) Prayer and praise