DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

In this week's text, <u>Exodus 36</u>, we see the description of the construction of the Tabernacle, under the supervision of Bezalel, the artisan God chose as the project manager for the task.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. At the beginning of the chapter, we see the conclusion of the story of Moses' appeal for contributions (Ex 35:4-14; 36:1-7). How does that episode end?
- 2. The curtains used inside and the curtains covering the Tabernacle were enormous.
 - How many curtains were used inside the Tabernacle (v. 8-13)?
 - What were the curtains made of?
 - How big were they (in modern terms of measurement)?
 - What were the curtains that covered the Tabernacle made of (v. 14-19)?
 - What other materials were used in the construction of the Tabernacle?
- 3. If you include all the chapters in Exodus in which Moses receives instructions about the Tabernacle, how many chapters are involved?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

This is the part of the Bible where many Bible-reading plans go to die (mine did, more than once). The instructions for the Tabernacle make up a sizable portion of the text of Exodus. We have extensive, detailed instructions about how the Tabernacle is to be built, followed by equally detailed descriptions of how it was actually built.

Clearly, these details are important. Why is there so much detail and redundancy in the Scripture on this matter? Why do such seemingly arcane details merit such careful attention in the biblical text?

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SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

Israel's construction of the Tabernacle is a stunning illustration of the Spirit's use of gifting in service. The Spirit moved on many different people in many different ways: He moved the hearts of the people to give, and He moved on the hearts, minds, and hands of the artisans to carry out His vision for the place where Yahweh would meet with His people.

- Have you ever identified your spiritual gift? Your spiritual gift is the equipment God has entrusted to you to carry out your work in the fellowship. Although there is no official list of gifts in Scripture (the several lists vary in length and content), the concept of gifting for service is deeply embedded in New Testament theology.
 - One way to discern your gifting is to think about the ways you enjoy serving others. Another way is to talk to people who know you well: what gifting do they discern in you?
 - You can do a spiritual gifts inventory to discover more about your gifting <u>here</u>.
- 2. Was there ever a time in your life when you found great joy in serving in a particular way because you sensed that you were doing what God had designed you to do?
- 3. Was there a time when because of great necessity or your own shortsightedness you tried to serve in a way in which you simply didn't possess the gifting? How did you process your frustration in that effort?

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