

Exodus 35-40

Moses gathers the people together to instruct them regarding the building of the Tabernacle and its furnishings. This building project will prepare the way for proper worship. The building of the Tabernacle is the subject of the closing chapters of Exodus. It will take several months to complete the task and will be completed and operational by the beginning of the first month of the second year after departing from Egypt.

Before the work begins three things must be addressed

- The spiritual health of the people - reminded to keep the Sabbath
- How it will be paid for - lessons on giving
- Who will build it - gifted artisans

The spiritual health of the people

Exodus 35:1-3

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:

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.

You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

Israel will be busy with ministry for several months. Before the project begins only one of the 10 commandments is repeated; they are reminded to keep the sabbath.

They are not reminded about the danger of covetousness, although all the gold and silver and gifted people might stir the heart to unhealthy ambitions. Instead they are reminded that in the midst of all the labor they must take time to rest in the Lord.

A quick review of the doctrine of the Sabbath might be helpful.

Sabbath was first instituted by God and applied to Himself. We read that after 6 days of creation, God rested. The word use to describe His rest is "Sabat"

Even before the law was given the people were already practicing the sabbath rest.

Although it seems unlikely that they were able to observe it while enslaved in Egypt. Sabbath is only for the free.

Sabbath is the 4th commandment in the Law

Exodus 20:8-11

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Deuteronomy 5:15 adds -

"And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."

- No work was to be done,
- They were to keep it holy (implication is that it is a time to devote attention to the Lord not to the daily issues of life)
- They were to remember that they were freed from the slavery of Egypt

It seems that the primary purpose of the sabbath was to provide physical rest and a spiritual recharge to the congregation of Israel.

If they were going to succeed in the work of the Lord they must be sure to keep the sabbath.

The only one of the Ten Commandments not repeated as a requirement in the New Testament is the Law of the Sabbath.

This is due to the fact that the New Testament believer is not spiritually restored primarily through a day off but through abiding in Christ.

The New Testament teaches that Jesus is our Sabbath.

Hebrews 4:9

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

Rest - sabbatismo

Far more important than the work we do for God is the relationship we have with God

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Luke 10:20

Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

In fact what we do for God should stem from relationship

- **Martha** was rebuked for neglecting the main thing of sitting at Jesus' feet and learning from Him
- **Ephesus** was rebuked for being busy and neglecting first love
- **Paul** spent 3 years in **Arabia** getting to know Jesus. By his own admission he did not know Him, "Who are You Lord?"

We must maintain a healthy relationship with Christ and avoid allowing ministry to replace relationship.

Israel had a weekly Sabbath, we should have a daily quiet time.

How will they pay for it?

Exodus 35:4

And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying:

There are 4 Giving Principles tucked away in this text

First,

Exodus 35:5

*"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;*

The people were to give from a **Willing heart** - This is repeated in 35:22 and 35:29

For this to happen the people must leave and take inventory of their lives in light of the work of God

Exodus 35:20-22

And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

*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.*

*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.*

As they met with the Lord their he stirred their hearts - 35:21,26 & 36:2

Willingness will lead us to the Lord and the Lord will stir our hearts to give

Second,

Exodus 36:5-9

They brought **what they had**.

See also 35:22-28

For the work to be accomplished enormous amounts of gold silver and bronze were needed in addition they must compile fabric, spices and oil. Not any one person or family could contribute all that was necessary. The work was completed when each person brought what they had as an offering to the Lord.

No mention is ever made to how much a person brought. They went home, sought the Lord and gave what they had to further the work of the Lord.

Third,

Exodus 36:3

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.

They brought continually. This was not a one time emotional decision to give to God, but something they had prayed about and considered caereully.

Since the project took months the giving must be consistent

Fourthly,

Exodus 36:5-7

*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.”*

*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, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done—indeed too much.*

They brought more than enough for the work of the Lord so they had to be restrained from giving. This was possible because the people gave as they should and the leadership only focused on building that which God designed. Had they added a pool, retreat center, music studio, multimedia room they would not have had sufficient funds. Somethings the work is not completed because the people fail to give other times it is because the leadership loses focus on what God wants to do

This might be a good time to look at the biblical doctrine of giving. Because there are two separate testaments we need to see that giving is different under the old covenant than it is under the new.

Old Teatment Tithing

- Tithing is **first** mentioned as the offering Abraham willingly gave to Melchizedek
- **Next** mention is in Leviticus 27:30 where it is called holy and as such is an expression of worship

Leviticus 27:30

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.

- Numbers 18:26 tithe was used to support priests in ministry
- Deut 26 gives details regarding the tithe

26:1-3 - the people were to bring the first fruits of their labors to the Tabernacle as an offering

26:4-11 - the offerer was to reflect upon being saved from idolatry and bondage in Egypt and rejoice as he offered his gift to the Lord

26:12- - there was an expected blessing on the nation associated with the offering of the tithe

New Testament Giving

The way you think about and spend your money speaks to what is most important in your life. Jesus clearly said that where our treasure is, our heart will be also

Jesus only mentioned tithing twice

Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Luke 18:12

I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

Jesus made a clear distinction between giving to the church and giving to those in need. The believer should practice both.

Luke 14:12-14

Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid.

But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.

And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Jesus also gave principles behind how we are to give

Matthew 6:1-4

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Luke 21:1-4

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury,

and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites.

So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all;

for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

The principle of New Testament giving is further developed by looking at the instructions Paul gave to the churches regarding financial gifts. He wrote quite extensively regarding giving

- There are no references to tithing in the book of Acts or any of the epistles. (With the exception of referring to Abraham's tithing to Melchizedek in the Old Testament)
- There are many references to giving.
 - The Jerusalem church was marked by the generosity of its members in giving to meet one another's needs. This same generosity was later expressed by the gentile churches toward the Jerusalem church when it faced financial difficulties due to persecution, politics and drought
- Paul wrote to the Corinthian church regarding the gift they would bring to Jerusalem. It is from this that we can best understand the concept of giving.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

First day of the week - weekly

Lay aside as you prosper - should re-evaluate giving as our economic position changes.

No collections when I come - All forms of manipulation should be avoided so people can give as they purpose in their own hearts

Whomever you approve - financial accountability should accompany all giving.

2 Corinthians 8:1-3

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,

In poverty they gave - cannot wait until we have more than we need

According to their ability and beyond - more on this later regarding not giving to go into debt but giving in faith that God will provide

2 Corinthians 8:12-15

For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened;

but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality.

As it is written, “He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”

The example is used of Jesus who become poor so that we might become rich

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich

2 Corinthians 9:5

Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation

Prepare in advance what you will give that it may be an expression of praise not an obligation

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

Giving is like farming. If you hold back you reap less

We must purpose in our hearts what to give. This requires prayerful consideration.

We should give joyfully. If you can't you need to take your finances before the Lord

2 Corinthians 9:12-13

For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,

Giving provides for the needs of the saints and shows the reality of our confession of faith

1 Timothy 5:17-18

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

Seems wrong to focus on giving and not draw attention to the words of Malachi. His message has often been used to motivate believers to give to the Lord.

Malachi 3:8-12

Two parts,

Rob from God - since the NT does not require the tithe it is impossible for us to rob this from God. Some have sought a new way of viewing their possessions. All belongs to God and we keep what we need.

Test me - this is the only area where God commands testing. Failing to give is usually motivated by one of two things. Either we are not interested in the things of God. Our heart is where our treasures are or we are afraid we cannot survive if we give away some of what we have. If you do not give because you do not trust then it is time to focus on growing in Christ. The more you know Him the easier it will be to trust Him.

GIFTED MEN - Bazalel and Aholiab

Finally, now that the people have given to the work, how will it be accomplished. We have here a vivid illustration of the way ministry works. The people's gifts were met by gifted people. Moses selected two men to lead the charge and countless others to join in with them in service.

Exodus 38:22-23

Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

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.

Read Exodus 35:30-36:2

We read that these men were

- Gifted men
- Filled with the Spirit
- Able to teach
- Filled with skill

Both the physical and the spiritual gifts were attributed to the Lord and seen as gifts. They were then given back in the service of the Lord.

Same principle is true today. Gifts are given and chosen and gifted individuals are sent forth to accomplish work

It is when the giving of the people meet the giftings of those within the church that ministry takes place.

In the economy of God the giver and the gifted bear an equal reward

God always fills with the Spirit those He calls for service

Micah 3:8

But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, And of justice and might, To declare to Jacob his transgression And to Israel his sin.

The work completed

Exodus 39:32

Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished. And the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord had commanded Moses; so they did

Exodus 39:43

Then Moses looked over all the work, and indeed they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, just so they had done it. And Moses blessed them.

Exodus 40:1-2

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

“On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

40:4-9 explains how each article of furniture was placed in the Tabernacle

40:9-11 explains how the Tabernacle and its utensils were anointed for service

40:12- explains how Aaron and his sons were prepared for ministry

- Wash
- Put on Holy Garments
- Anoint
- Consecrate

Exodus 40:17

And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up.

Exodus 40:34

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.