

“The Financing for the Tabernacle”

Exodus 35:4-29

Theme:

Giving to and Serving in the Local Church is one of the strongest means of remembering Story.

Introduction:

Four reasons why our present passage on the financing for the Tabernacle is important.

- First, the importance of this passage can be discerned by the priority of its construction. Before the construction of permanent homes for the Israelites; before they plant their vineyards or dig their wells, before they construct their barns or their stables, long before they even take possession of the land, before anything else takes place, God wants them to focus on worship. In this context He instructs them to build Him a tabernacle.
- Second, the importance of this passage can be discerned from its proportions. Note that the commandments pertaining to the construction of the tabernacle (Exod. 25-31) and the account of its being carried out (Exod. 35-40) take up 13 chapters out of a total of 40 for the entire book.
- Third, the significance of our passage can be determined on the basis of its position in the book. In a word, the text we are considering (that is, chapters 35-40) is the conclusion to the Book of Exodus.
- Fourth, the significance of this text is evident by its principle theme. The theme of this section is the presence of God in the midst of His people.

It is for these four reasons the importance of the TABERNACLE rises from the clutter of the horizontal worries of life. Now Moses addresses its construction. What will it take to build this simple structure? Two things are necessary. First, material goods [tangible resources {i.e. money}] and second, technical services [your physical abilities].

Six statements are made about this financing.

Structure / Outline:

- I. Giving is a **contribution to** the LORD (v. 5)
- II. Giving involves a **willing heart**, a heart stirred by God (vv. 5, 20, 21, 22, 26; 36:2; cf. 2 Cor. 9:7)
- III. Giving comes from the **surplus** God gives you (vv. 5-9).
- IV. Giving is from **ability** (vv. 10, 24, 25; 36:2, 4, 8)
- V. Giving is a **freewill offering** to the LORD (v. 29)

NOW WHAT (Where do we go from here?)

God is always inviting us to give. Your gifting does not change your vertical. Your gifting changes your horizontal. How, does it change the horizontal?

1. By breaking the stronghold, the shadow has on us.
2. By reorganizing our wants and needs.

Continued on the other side

3. By declaring the singular story in which we all live and by shouting that Jesus is Lord and that the Father has raised His Son from the dead.
4. By prioritizing the Vision and Mission of God as you live in and out the Story of God.
5. Our gifting to the local church is a strong declaration against the principalities, powers, and spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. This is what our gifting does (Eph. 6:12).

