

## **Exodus Chp. 35-40**

### **“No Spectators”**

#### **I.) Intro**

#### **II.) Chp. 35-39 Time to build**

#### **III.) Chp. 40 Filled with Gods glory**

##### **I.) Intro**

How do you all feel about your family history? It seems to me that the older I get the more interest I have in my ancestors. My Grandmother did quite a bit of research into her family's history and I like to read about what they were like. Looking at your family history is looking at life's journey. How families traveled from one part of the country to another, what led them to make such a decision? I wonder if the Lord tarries in a few hundred years what my relatives will have to say about my decisions? I wonder if they will look over the years of my life and see in my direction the move of the Holy Spirit and a changed and broken heart?

Through out this book we have been privileged to see Israel's spiritual journey. In the first 18 chapters we saw their bondage and deliverance from Egypt, the call of Moses and their escape to Mt. Sinai. Then in chapters 19-24 we saw the initiation of God's covenant with His people and their growing understanding of who God is. In chapters 25-31 God gave Moses the specific design for the construction of the tabernacle where He would dwell in their midst. In chapters 32-34 we are told what the people did while Moses was up on the Mountain with the Lord, they rebelled and how the Lord received them after their failure. We are at the end of their spiritual journey as recorded in the book of Exodus.

## II.) Chp. 35-39 Time to build

### Chapter 35:

Surveying the last 5 chapters there is a lot of it that repeats the specific plans of the tabernacle, the difference being that in these chapters they actually build it. The key to understanding this section is to be found in two simple words:

- a. **All**: repeated 71 times in five chapters.
- b. **Every**: repeated 6 times in five chapters.

When you see these two words they are revering to the action of a nation of around 2 million and the fact that they were uniform in their decision to follow the Lord. In light of their recent rebellion, what caused a nation of 2 million such a change of heart? Simply put a little over 40 days earlier the nation was unrestrained in their worship of the golden calf and now they are equally passionate in their decision to follow the Lord. What brought about such a sweeping change of heart?

- 1.) Was it the power of God? No they had already seen that in their deliverance.
- 2.) Was it the knowledge of God? No again they had already experienced this along they way. Remember they had failed before the Lord in spite of God's demonstration of power and guidance. Clearly these did not keep them from following after worthless idols. So what has happened that has changed their hearts as seen in their actions? The only thing that has happened is that God has personally revealed His love and grace towards them.

They had come to understand their own sin nature and God's love of them because of His character, (34:6). Paul says this in his letter to Titus where he says, "*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.*" It is the grace of God

that leads us to say no to ungodliness! It was the revelation of God's grace that changed their lives from Idol worshipers to God worshipers.

To further illustrate this point, look at the first three verses of chapter 35. Here God reestablishes the Sabbath day prior to calling them to the work of the Lord. Clearly God wants them to rest in Him before they are to work for Him! **Before God outlines the work that is to be done FOR the Lord, He wants them to understand the rest that is to be only found IN the Lord!** It is as if the Lord is saying, "*As you are so loved so work, and not you work so you will be loved!*" **The difference is motivation from obligation to that of privilege.** God's work and call in our lives always begins from a place of resting in Him and His work. And what is His work? It is His amazing grace not because of us but rather in spite of us! And what did the grace of God do in the people? Well according to verse 21 it produced two things in the Israelites.

1.) Vs. 21 **Stirred hearts:**

2.) Vs. 21 **Willing spirit:**

Both words, "*hearts and spirits*" refer to inward things: **So the outward change of action was form an inward change of heart.** This is not something that they did rather it was a work of the word of God that changed their hearts. And the change of heart moved them to action!

Moses in verse 5 makes a suggestion, "*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*". The grace of God was going to motivate the people to a willing heart. Moses did not have some fancy fund raising technique. In fact, verse 20 tells us that Moses stated the need told them that only those who have "*willing hearts*" should give then the people departed from his presence. No high pressure sales system no, "*God has told me today that there are 5 of you out there today that are going to give \$5000 to our building fund!*" Where are those contests pitting the people against each other or

putting people on the spot to give to the building? It is simply not there. Instead what we see is that **Moses trusted that God would do the work in the hearts of His people**. There was no set amount, people brought what ever their stirred heart and willing spirit dictated and that was every thing from gold and silver to goat's hair and olive oil! No one was excluded from giving to the Lord (every man & woman) and what was the most important thing in the giving was a willing heart! Further more they realized that they were not giving to Moses or even the tabernacle. No they realized that they were giving unto the Lord, (verse 21).

Look at verses 22-29 here and see the response to the grace of God, it blows my mind. In fact, Moses appoints two general contractors to over see the work of building and these guys were gifted and empowered by God for the work which God had called them. No amount of money can make me do what I do here at Calvary Chapel, I do what I do because He has called me and I will do it until He tells me to stop! **Ministry is not a career choice it's is a calling!** A careful look at these guys will show you that their man job was to teach others how to do what God had called them to do! You need to realize that this heart change was seen in three ways:

- 1.) 35:22-29 **They gave** of the resources for the construction.
- 2.) 35:10, 36:1-4, 8 **They serve** together in building the tabernacle.
- 3.) 39:1 **They obeyed**. 15 times we read that the Israelites did, "as the LORD had commanded Moses."

The "***stirred heart and willing spirit***" produced a life style that was seen their giving, serving and obedience to what the Lord had said to do. "**When the church's response to His grace is with a stirred heart and a willing spirit it will be seen in the way they give serve and obey!**"

### **Chapter 36:**

Vs. 4-7 So the people bring so much that they have to be restrained. Wow! Willing hearts that have been transformed by the grace of God will always give more than enough for the work to which He has called them. I love the integrity of Moses here as well when they had enough he told them to stop. What is the difference between how these folks responded and how we do? I think it is the growth that they had in the grace of God! You can always tell people that don't understand God's abundant grace for they will be the ones that do not give!

Vs. 8-38 They start building the curtains, boards, pillars and veils. You know what is interesting is that God gave Moses the design of the tabernacle from the inside out and they build it from the outside in! You see that is how we always see things is it not from the outside in? We are always concerned with the How God is going to make it work, where God is always concerned with the inward heart! Oh that we would learn this lesson in our own lives!

### **Chapter 37:**

They start building the furniture that went inside the tabernacle, but this time they start with the Most Holy Place and work out! When you come into the presence of the Lord you need to start with His mercy and they do.

### **Chapter 38:**

Again they work going to the outer court. Look for a moment at verse 8, "*He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.*" The bronze laver was for the cleansing of the priests as they offered the sacrifices. These women had gotten these mirrors from the Egyptian women as they left Egypt. They were made up of highly polished brass so that the women could see their reflections in them. The Holy Spirit sees fit to tell us to the degree that the grace of God had

changed these folks, why even the ladies were setting aside their vanity for the work of the Lord.

**They gave up the appearance of their own reflection for the appearance of Gods reflection!**

These ladies were setting aside the most precious thing they had for the building of the tabernacle. How about it? What is the most precious thing you own? Would you be so moved by the grace of God to set it aside for His work? Here are these serving ladies and it seems as they all got together and brought with them the one thing that they all treasured the most their vanity. And they gave of a willing heart. I can't help but think that they were never so attractive as they were right then. **How true it is, "the vain things that we so cling to instead of bringing beauty bring about the reflection of the flesh. But when we turn those over to the Lord the reflection we see is the Lord's!"**

Vs. 9-20 The court with it's pillars and linen fence is built.

Vs. 21-31 Then an inventory of the materials used is taken. Now if you added it all up it would weigh over 19,000 pounds and be worth over \$13 million. That was a lot to manage and clearly God had entrusted Moses with a huge responsibility.

### **Chapter 39:**

Vs. 1-31 Finally the priestly garments are made again all to the specifications given to Moses.

Vs. 32-43 So they bring all the work of building to Moses and he inspects it. So Moses was a leader who had the vision of God and ultimately it was his responsibility to make sure that the work of the Lord was done according to the Word of the Lord by was of the Spirit of the Lord. That is what it means to be in leadership folks. Notice what Moses does here in 39:43, He bless them! They were told that they were appreciated in the Lord for their labor towards the work of the Lord. It is not one mans work it is all of our work the Lord will bless you equally for you

service towards him with a willing heart! Simple obedience to the Lord motivated by the grace of God built the tabernacle!

### **III.) Chp. 40 Filled with Gods glory**

Vs. 1 “On the first day of the month tells us that it had been about a year since they had been out of Egypt. Wow what a year!

Vs. 2-33 They assemble the tabernacle to anoint Aaron as High priest and his sons as priests and they are ready for the dedication service. Notice that it says in verse 33 that “*Moses finished the work.*” Folk’s, that is our job today, we are to build the Church of Jesus Christ and one-day when we are in His presence we will hear the words of the Lord, “*Well done good and faithful servant!*” Until then we are not finished with the work. So we are to do it together with a willing heart that has simply responded to the grace of God in our lives. And as we do that will produce a stirred heart and a willing spirit. And God will fill this church that is not made with human hands with His glory and He will abide in us in such away as to guide us through the rest of the journey of life.