

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes

1-6-21

Exodus 35

Reminder About The Sabbath - Verses 1-3

¹ Moses assembled the whole Israelite community and said to them, "These are the things the LORD has commanded you to do: ² For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a day of sabbath rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it is to be put to death. ³ Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

35:1-3 It is clear that God considered the Sabbath day to be an extremely important command to follow since it is repeated multiple times in Exodus alone.

Materials for the Tabernacle - Verses 4-9

⁴ Moses said to the whole Israelite community, "This is what the LORD has commanded: ⁵ From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze; ⁶ blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ⁷ ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; ⁸ olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; ⁹ and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

35:4 God did not require these special offerings, but he appealed to people with generous hearts. Only those who were willing to give were invited to participate. God loves cheerful givers (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our giving should be from love and generosity, not from a guilty conscience. Review what God has done for you. Has he blessed you with enough to meet your daily needs? Thank him, and then cheerfully give so others' needs can be met. Learn the joy of giving wholeheartedly to God.

35:5-9 God doesn't need our gifts. He owns everything anyway. He could have the angels descend from heaven to build the tabernacle with materials made from heaven. But He didn't do that. Why? Because giving is not a chore. It is a blessing. God gave the opportunity to give. This was something that people could joy and pleasure in. They could be excited that they had this opportunity to serve God and help out in some small way.

Request For Skillful Workers - Verses 10-19

¹⁰ "All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the LORD has commanded: ¹¹ the tabernacle with its tent and its covering, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts and bases; ¹² the ark with its poles and the atonement cover and the curtain that shields it; ¹³ the table with its poles and all its articles and the bread of the Presence; ¹⁴ the lampstand that is for light with its accessories, lamps and oil for the light; ¹⁵ the altar of

incense with its poles, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; the curtain for the doorway at the entrance to the tabernacle; ¹⁶ the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles and all its utensils; the bronze basin with its stand; ¹⁷ the curtains of the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard; ¹⁸ the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the courtyard, and their ropes; ¹⁹ the woven garments worn for ministering in the sanctuary—both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests.”

35:10-19 Moses asked people with various abilities to help with the tabernacle. Every one of God's people has been given special abilities. We are responsible to develop these abilities—even the ones not considered religious—and to use them for God's glory. We can become skilled through study, by watching others, and through practice. Work on your skills or abilities that could help your church or community.

35:10-19 There was a wide variety of tasks that needed a wide variety of skillful laborers. Likely whatever skill you had, you could put to use by helping in some way. There was something for everyone to do as well as some things that no one person could do by himself. It was to be a cooperative team effort. This is much like work in the church today. There are many different tasks available. Whatever skills you have, you can put to use helping out. The one key is that you must be willing. Are you willing to help serve in your church/fellowship? Hopefully you are.

The People Respond Willingly by Contributing What They Have - Verses 20-29

²⁰ Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, ²¹ and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. ²² All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD. ²³ Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or the other durable leather brought them. ²⁴ Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the LORD, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. ²⁵ Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun—blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. ²⁶ And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. ²⁷ The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. ²⁸ They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹ All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

35:20-24 Where did the Israelites, who were once Egyptian slaves, get all this gold and jewelry? When the Hebrews left Egypt, they took with them items they requested from the Egyptians. The Egyptians had been so glad for them to go that they readily gave these valuables to the Hebrews (3:22; 12:35-36). This included gold, silver, jewels, linen, skins, and other valuables.

35:21-22 Those whose hearts were stirred gave willingly for the building of the tabernacle. They gave with enthusiasm because they knew how important their giving was for the completion of

God's house. Moses had carefully explained the need and the plans for the tabernacle, and so many people responded generously. For God to stir our hearts, we must be informed. If your church has a stewardship campaign, get involved and learn all you can. Find out about evangelistic missions and ministries to the poor. God will use this knowledge to stir your heart.

God Called and Empowered Bezalel and Oholiab for the Task of Supervising this Great Work - Verses 30-35

³⁰ Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³¹ and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— ³² to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ³³ to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts. ³⁴ And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. ³⁵ He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.

35:30-31 Notice that God is involved in every step of this work. He gives the command to Moses to mention the need. He stirs the hearts of the people to fill the need for materials. He then calls Bezalel and Oholiab to join this work, yet another example of God's calling combined with human responsibility to answer the call. God not only calls these workers, but He empowered them. HE EMPOWERED them with His Spirit, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and craftsmanship in many areas. God will not give us a task to complete without giving us the means to complete it.

35:32-35 Finally, these two men did not actually do all the work by themselves. Instead they taught the people under them (34) how to do it. It was a task too big to be accomplished alone so God gave them a team. Instead of saying that they were the smartest and saving all the work for themselves, they made use of the team God had given them and supervised the process, thus relinquishing some of their responsibilities to others, even though themselves might have been able to do some parts of it better themselves. Leaders must learn to delegate and supervise. Otherwise what will happen? They will get burnt out and they will not have enough energy or time to finish everything. Teach what you know to others and then trust that they will faithfully use this knowledge to take part in the great work God has given to us.