



3/20/26

*On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about God's beautiful invitation of hope for all who are thirsty. If you'd like to hear the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Exodus 35:4-6:7*

*So... this is about the time when the Lord had delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Through Moses, He was taking them to the Promised Land. But there was a delay because of their rebellion. They had sent 12 spies to go into the land and check it out. When they returned, 10 of the spies said they couldn't go because there were giants in the land. Only two said God was bigger than the giants and, if God told them to go, He would make the way for them to succeed in His purpose for them.*

*At that point, God could have just abandoned them and washed His hands of them. After all, they continued to rebel against Him throughout this whole time. But He didn't treat them as they deserved. He did, however, say that they would have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until that generation passed away. In His mercy, He had them build a tent that would model itself after the temple in Jerusalem that would be built hundreds of years later. This was His mercy because that tent would be a constant reminder of His presence with them throughout the 40 years of wandering.*

*Here, in Exodus 35, we see the call to the Israelites to provide the necessary supplies and skills to build this temporary temple. What I will see repeated over and over in this passage is that God wanted them to only give from a generous, willing heart. God never wants us to give out of compulsion or force.*

*Exodus 35:4-8 ~*

*Moses spoke to the people and said, "This is the thing that the Lord has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the LORD Yahweh. Whoever is GENEROUS OF HEART..."*

*Part of the command was that only the people who were generous of heart should bring the contribution. Wow. God wasn't worried about having enough. He knew He could do it without them. He multiplies fish and bread. He only wants us to give from a generous heart.*

*He called them to bring all kinds of things that would provide for every aspect of the tent... all that was used to build it and all that was used in it. Where did they get these items??? They had come from slavery in Egypt! They had been poor and empty handed! But before they left, Egyptians just happened to start handing over all kinds of items... like all the stuff they used to build the tent! God even provided for them the things that He asked them to freely give. He didn't demand that the unwilling give, only those were willing.*

*Exodus 35:10-19 ~*

*Then God called for skillful craftsmen to take all the supplies that would be freely given and make everything for the tent... the tent (tabernacle) itself, all the coverings and bolts and the stuff to hold it together, the ark of the covenant that would go in the Holy of Holies, the mercy seat... How cool is that, that our God calls His seat a seat of mercy!!! Not condemnation!!! They were to craft everything needed for every aspect of worship.*

*Exodus 35:20-29 ~*

*Then the people left Moses. "Everyone whose heart stirred him, whose spirit moved him" returned, both men and women, and brought the Lord's contribution." Again... only those who were willing. That was part of the command!*

*What would make someone unwilling, when God had just delivered them from 400 years of slavery and promised that He would never leave them, even though they had rebelled against Him over and over again? Also, I don't think they had even cried out TO GOD for their deliverance from slavery. In Joshua 24:14-15, right before God took them into the Promised Land, Joshua said, "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. PUT AWAY THE FOREIGN GODS that your fathers served beyond the River and in EGYPT, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Even when God delivered them and while they were wandering in the desert and when they built the tent, they had foreign gods!!! This is clear evidence to me that God pursued THEM just as He pursues ME. O Lord, whatever would make me unwilling, let me see how wrong it is and run from it!!!*

*So... the people brought their generous, willing contributions and skills. Vs. 22 said they gave with willing hearts. They dedicated their offerings to the Lord. They gave what they could. Vs. 26 says the women "WHOSE HEARTS STIRRED THEM to use their skill spun the goats' hair." Vs. 29 says, "All the men and women, the people of Israel, WHOSE HEART MOVED THEM to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a FREEWILL OFFERING to the LORD." The command was not just to bring the offering, but to bring it with a willing heart. God never wants me to give because I HAVE to, but because I GET*

*to... out of gratitude for all He's done for me.*

*The Israelites, though they failed God so much, were willing because they were grateful for how God delivered them from physical slavery. How much more should I be grateful that He has delivered me from the "domain of darkness" where my chains would have been eternal??? O Lord, what do I have that is worth more than You??? Let my LIFE be a WILLING offering to You.*

*Exodus 35:30-35 ~*

*Every big construction job needs someone skilled to run it. Who did God choose to run this holy project? He didn't just want someone who was excellent at his craft, but who also wholeheartedly loved Him... who would lead the way in giving from a devoted, willing heart. God chose Bezalel... of the tribe of Judah. Interesting... Jesus came from the line of Judah. Bezalel's name means, "in the shadow, the protection, the likeness of God." How cool is that!!! Vs. 31 says the Lord "has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship." Wow. God provided in every way.*

*It's like when one of my grandkids helps me to move one of my chairs so they can roll balls on the pool table. It's my chair. I provide it. It's my pool table. There's no way the little ones could move that chair without me. I carry the chair while they "help" me with a willing heart. This is what God does. He provides in every way for every task. GOD GIVES WITH A WILLING, GENEROUS HEART!!! That's why He wants me to do the same.*

*God had Bezalel teach the rest of the workers along with a guy named Oholiab. God gave these two men skills in "EVERY sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer." God thought of EVERYTHING!!!*

*Exodus 36:1-7 ~*

*Moses called these men, Bezalel and Oholiab, along with "every craftsman "in whom the Lord put skill and intelligence, everyone WHOSE HEART STIRRED HIM." While they started working, the people kept coming with more and more willing offerings for the Lord. The craftsmen finally had to go to Moses and say, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work the LORD has commanded us to do." Moses literally had to tell the people to stop giving. It says, "The people were RESTRAINED from giving." They were kept back from giving any more!!! Oh! To have that kind of worship and gratitude for the Lord that He would have to tell me to stop because I've given enough.*

*In any scripture, when words are repeated, there's a reason. What words continue to be repeated in this passage? "They gave from a willing heart as God commanded." God's command is not just that I give, but that I give from a willing heart. Why? That's an act of love and devotion, not fear of punishment. This is my God... He has never done a single thing out of compulsion or force... Even Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was a willing choice to lay down His life*

*for my salvation. He didn't have to. He chose to "for the joy set before Him." O Lord, I want to willingly and generously give all to You, because You are the joy set before me.*