

Friday, March 23, 2018

## Willing

Exodus 35-36

*Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him 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.*

Exodus 35:20-21

It's time to start the work on the Tabernacle. I can't imagine the excitement that was in the air as the nation of Israel prepared to make and build the place that God had designed and revealed to Moses. This particular chapter of Exodus always touches my heart very deeply. First, I love that in God, people are a community. God has designed us to have an impact in our world as we live with common unity. This chapter shows that the common unity of serving God brought a willingness in the hearts of people—a willingness to give generously to His work. That willingness came from hearts that were moved by God. God's love is radiated by His community responding together willingly to His movement in their hearts. I long for my heart to be constantly moved by God. I want to be one in the community in which God has placed me. I long to be part of the unity that is seen in this passage. I long for my heart to be moved and for me to be moved to give generously and regularly to the community in which God has placed me so that His name can be proclaimed and revealed as great.

*Dear LORD, stir in my heart. Move me to generous giving and relationship within the community in which You have placed me. Amen.*

Saturday, March 24, 2018

## Amounts

Exodus 37-38

*These are the amounts of the materials used for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the Testimony, which were recorded at Moses' command by the Levites under the directions of Ithamar son of Aaron, the high priest.*

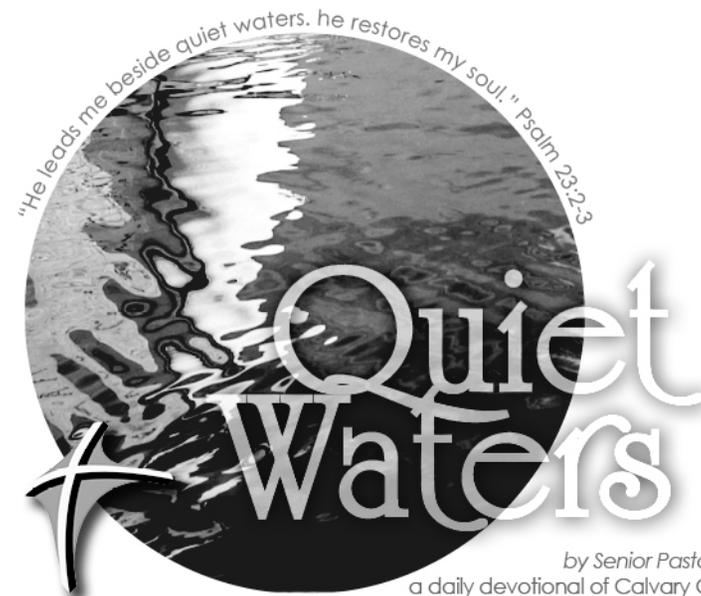
Exodus 38:21

The end of this chapter reviews the amounts of the items that were used for the construction of the tabernacle. The people had willingly brought even more than was needed so that they were told to stop. I have always wondered what it would be like to have been one of the Israelites who brought the spoils from Egypt—miraculously provided by God. Would I have remembered that I was just carrying them for Him, or would I have thought they were for my use and pleasure?

What was it that was used? More than a ton of gold, 3-3/4 tons of silver, and 2-1/2 tons of bronze. I am in awe to think that slaves were given this amount of plunder. I believe that the majority of this was Egyptian gold, silver, and bronze. I consider the volume and I am amazed. And then I stop to consider all He has given me. The amount of His stuff that He has entrusted to me. All I have is plunder that has come to me through His provision. He has blessed me so richly. What have I done with what He has allowed me to steward for Him? Have I used it wisely to help build His kingdom, as He has directed? He deserves nothing less.

*Dear Lord, I am amazed as I read the weights and amounts of materials that were used for Your tabernacle. Help me bring my best and use my talents for Your purpose. Amen.*

March 19 - 24, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka  
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, March 19, 2018

**Shown**

Exodus 27-28

*"Make the altar hollow, out of boards. It is to be made just as you were shown on the mountain."  
Exodus 27:8*

Moses had a very unique relationship with God. God showed things to Moses that He had never before shown to anyone. There is yet much, much more for Moses to see. As I read these chapters, I consider that God is not only describing how to build this tabernacle, He is also revealing how Aaron is supposed to dress. With great detail, God reveals the importance of dignity as Aaron comes into His presence. This was not to be taken lightly (which becomes very clear for Aaron's sons later). These words I am reading are the words that God spoke to Moses. People long for God to talk to them like that. I love that God does—in the Bible! I am reading the words of God. I don't need someone to tell me what they think God is saying. I don't need someone to put words in God's mouth, to put what God says in their own words. God tells me what He is saying. I may need some explanation of what His Word says, because I may not always understand exactly what I am reading or exactly why He is saying the things He is saying, but nevertheless, I just love "listening" to Him talk as I read.

*O my Lord, thank You so much for giving me Your Word. The Bible is so very sweet and so very special, as within it You show me the way You have designed for me. Help me to love Your Word and to read it often, listening to You speak to me. Amen.*

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

**Consecrate**

Exodus 29-30

*"This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams without defect."  
Exodus 29:1*

It was extremely important for the priests to be consecrated—set apart—for the service they would be doing. This was a high and holy calling. They would be standing between God and the people. They needed to be as cleansed as possible. This would require sacrifices and rituals in order to enter the presence of the LORD in His tabernacle. They were called to a sacred duty. As such, all that was about them was to be sacred. As I read this, I can't help but think of my Great High Priest. Jesus has made the sacrifice and is the Priest over the house of God. He is the one who made the sacrifice that would cover my sin debt. I can enter the presence of God. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. And yet, what I can't miss in this passage is the sacredness that is needed to come into the presence of the LORD. Yes, Jesus has made it possible for me to be called a child of God, but as I enter the throne room, as I enter the most Holy of Holies, I must remind myself that I am standing on holy ground in the presence of Holy God. I must not be flippant about this.

*Dear LORD, set me apart for Your service. Please LORD, help me know that while I come to You as I am, in a way, I also must come in awe and reverence. Break the spirit in me that feels I deserve to be in Your presence in a way that lacks the respect You deserve. Amen.*

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

**Relented**

Exodus 31-32

*Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.  
Exodus 32:14*

The people have misunderstood God. They have forgotten Him. They have attributed His work of rescue to the gold He provided them through the Egyptians. They got restless waiting for His reply. He heard what they were doing. He saw their sin. His anger burned and He was ready to destroy them. God would have no problem replacing them. But Moses sought the favor of the LORD. In so doing, he revealed the heart that God loves. A heart of submission that knows the word of the LORD. A heart that rests in the promises of God. God surely did not need Moses to remind Him of the promises He had made. This was more for what Moses would teach and what would be taught ever since—that God relents. God relenting is not Him changing His mind. Rather, it is God's consistent response, according to His changeless nature, to a change in conduct. I thank God that I do not need to remind Him of the promises He has made, but I do need to remind myself. If I am to stand on the promises He has made, I must read and know what He has said so that when times of trial come, I can talk with Him, reminding myself of the promises He has made and rehearsing His faithfulness to all the generations that preceded me.

*Dear LORD, thank You that You are a God who relents and does not give me what I so surely deserve. Thank You that You have given me Your promises to hold me fast. Amen.*

Thursday, March 22, 2018

**Worshiped**

Exodus 33-34

*Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. "O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes. " he said, "then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."  
Exodus 34:9*

Moses has seen the glory of the LORD. He has seen His goodness. He has been in the very presence of the Almighty. God has told Moses that He is pleased with him and that He knows Moses by name (33:17). I try to contemplate this scene. I try to imagine it because I want the same thing Moses wanted—I want to see the glory of the Lord. I want it to be so clear that I have been in His presence that my face radiates His goodness. In this verse today, I see that for me to be in the presence of the LORD, I must realize that I do not go there alone. I go there making intercession, not only for myself but for others. I don't go before Him to accuse my brothers and sisters, I go there to plead for them, knowing that when they hurt, we all hurt. When there is sin in any part of our camp, the presence of the LORD is diminished.

*O Lord, if I have found favor in Your eyes, then please hear my prayer. I cry out for those who claim Your name. Please forgive our sin. We are a prideful and self-centered people, just as stiff-necked, if not more so. Please Lord, go with us. Do not leave us alone. Let us radiate Your glory. Amen.*