



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Four Keys to Our Commitments October 29th, 2017

(Exodus 35:20-35)

²⁰ Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, ²¹ 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. 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 hides of sea cows 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. 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 skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts— 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 craftsmanship. ³⁴ And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. ³⁵ He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them master craftsmen and designers.

1. In the account of the Widow's Offering, if you were in Jesus' shoes, which do you think you'd pay more attention to: the wealthy people bringing large offerings? Or the widow who put in a few small coins? What was it that drew Jesus' attention to the widow, instead of to all the wealthy people? How can we apply that lesson to our lives as Christians also?
2. For what purpose were the Israelites bringing their offerings to build the Tabernacle? How does Mount Olive's *Forward in Faith* campaign seek to accomplish the same purpose? How does keeping that fact in mind help you in planning your commitment to the campaign?
3. Scanning the groups of people who participated in bringing offerings for the Tabernacle, would you say there are any groups left out? How can we apply that fact to our congregation's *Forward in Faith* campaign?
4. Glance through the gifts that the Israelites offered for the building of the Tabernacle. Which gifts stand out to you as being more valuable than others? Which seem the least valuable? Why were all of those gifts incredibly valuable in God's eyes, and how can we apply that fact to our own commitments?
5. Read vs. 21. What does it say was the Israelites' motivation for bringing their offerings for the Tabernacle? Thinking of Israel's history to that point, what are some different examples of God's grace that would motivate their giving? What are examples from your life that would motivate your giving?
6. Commitments to *Forward in Faith* don't just have to be monetary. Give some examples from the Exodus 35 account that show God is also pleased when we use our time or talents in service to him. In what ways can you use your time or talents for Forward in Faith?