

Giving From The Heart

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 4th, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution.

~Exodus 25:2 (NASB)

1) A Place To Dwell Amidst His People

- A) After God's chosen people confirmed their relationship with God (Exodus 24), God gives Moses instructions to build a "sanctuary" where God could "dwell" with His people on a regular basis (cf. Exodus 25:8).
- B) Since Israel is still being led by God through the desert, heading for the land of promise, the sanctuary which they are to construct will have to be portable, much like the tents in which the people dwell (cf. Exodus 33:7-10).
- C) The dwelling place of God is called the "tent of meeting," "sanctuary," or "tabernacle" in Scripture (cf. Numbers 3:38). Each aspect of the tabernacle represented something greater in God's redemptive plan for mankind than its simple function (Exodus 25:9).
- D) In other words, every part of the tabernacle was planned carefully & intentionally by God to have a practical purpose (e.g., the golden lampstands provide light, 25:31ff) AND a prophetic/redemptive purpose (e.g., God is light and salvation, Psalm 27:1; Jesus is Light of the world, John 8:12).

- E) It is important to remember that the purpose of the Tent of Meeting was not ONLY so God's people could have a location to worship God, but that God's redemptive vision and plan would be present in the midst of His people for the whole world to experience!

2) Giving For The Tabernacle

- A) God could have simply built a tabernacle Himself (like the tablets with the ten commandments, cf. Exodus 24:12) and invited Israel to come to the tent for worship. This would have certainly been a much quicker and precise method.
- B) Instead though, God asks Moses to take up a collection from the people to provide both materials and labor for the construction of the portable tabernacle (25:1-2).
- C) Rather than require a contribution from people, giving for the tabernacle is motivated singularly on the "moving of one's heart" (25:2). The vision of what God wants to do is the primary motivation for giving to the tabernacle!
- D) Much in the same way, our giving toward the purposes of the Gospel work of God's Kingdom is not to be done because of obligation or manipulation, but with generosity, exceeding joy, and generosity (cf. 2nd Corinthians 9:6-15).

3) Everyone Can Participate, No One Has To Participate

- A) The listing of what needed to be collected for the construction of the tabernacle was extremely varied, from the very rare and valuable (gold, silver, fine linens; Exodus 25:3-4, 7) to the easily obtained and less valuable (wood, spices, oil; Exodus 25:5-6).
- B) The principle behind the list is very clear. Everyone can be involved in participating in God's redemptive plan for the world! Everyone can give from what God has supplied!
- C) God does not force you to participate in His plan, but He has invited **YOU** to participate in His plan for redemption, and calls all of us to give from authentic hearts!