

Exodus 35:22

They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the LORD.

When you read the book of Exodus. You will learn so many things by the examples set by the Children of Israel. Some good examples and some bad. One bad example that we should learn not to follow is, when Moses was on the mountain and some of the Israelites made and worshipped a golden calf and called it their god and offered gifts to it.

But a good example is today's devotional verse, where God gave Moses instructions for the tabernacle to be built and to ask from the Israelites to give for the building of the tabernacle. This happen after the golden calf incident, so if you think about it; they originally were wasting God's blessings, and offering it to a false god. Now they have repented and are giving to the true God.

If you think about it, God could had given instructions to Moses and supplied all the material (gold, silver, wood, fabrics, etc.) But instead, God wanted the people to be a part of the building of the tabernacle, and even though many were not gifted in building or carving or other aspects of it. Everyone had the same ability, and that was to contribute to it by giving the materials needed to build it.

Think of the church, where there are so many needs, and people want to help but some just don't know where to help out or what abilities they have that would benefit the church. If this is you, I would encourage you to talk to your pastor or elders in the church and let them know that you want to help and ask them what you can do.

But in our example, you may have noticed that there is something that we all can do, and that is give to the church financially, and by doing so, we are like the Israelites helping to build the tabernacle (church), because if you think about it, we should all be doing something in the church, but we should also all be giving financially to the church as well. Why? I don't know if you know this, but there are bills to be paid, mortgages, electricity, water, etc.... and by just doing things in the church does not pay the bills.

Remember what James said:

† **James 2:15-17** *If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

Also if you think of our example, we also used to throw or money away on false gods (partying, alcohol, drugs, toys we really didn't need etc...) but now that we are believers, we should be giving even more because we want to see the kingdom of God increase, and His tabernacle (the church) so to speak be a wonderful place for the Lord to dwell in, as well as others to come to. If we all did this, there would be a grand abundance in the church and the Lord would be glorified by the church giving and doing for others in the community.

† **Exodus 36:4-7** *Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, and they spoke to Moses, saying, "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do." So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done--indeed too much.*