

Exodus 35:4-9

And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying: 'Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

As I was reading this portion of scripture today in the book of Exodus, something really struck me as I was reading the things that the people brought with a **"willing heart"** particularly in regards to the **"stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate."** It made me think that each time they saw the high priest wearing the Breastplate, and seeing the stones in it, those who gave the stone probably thought, that *"Hey, I had a part of the breastplate being made because I gave one of the stones in it."* Not in a bragging sense, but more of a *"Wow, God used me to help create the breastplate."*

But not just the breastplate, but the entire tabernacle. Look at the lists of items brought by the Children of Israel for the building of the tabernacle and all the furnishing and utensils etc....

- ❖ *Gold, silver, and bronze*
- ❖ *blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair*
- ❖ *ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood*
- ❖ *oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense*
- ❖ *onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.*

Then if you read further on in Exodus, you see how each of those items were used for the creation of the tabernacle and every aspect of it. So the Children of Israel may have been thinking,

- *"I gave a several yards of **fine linen** or several **goats' hair**."*
- *"I had some **oil** or **spices** that I gave."*
- *"I had some **gold** and **silver** jewelry I contributed."*
- *"I had a bunch of **bronze** pot and utensils that I gladly gave to the Lord"*

Once again, not in a bragging sense, but more of knowing they all played a part in what God was doing and what He wanted for the building of the tabernacle.

We should all think the same way in our church. With summer almost here, it's getting hot outside, and when you walk into the church all nice and cool, just think by your giving, it helped pay for the AC to be on, or even to have Air Conditioning.

Or maybe you take communion, if you tithe, your tithe also helps pay for the communion everyone takes.

What about the lighting and sound, the chairs or pews, the pulpit and rug and the cleaning supplies and the food and the coffee and ...

That's right, if you tithe, your tithe helped pay for all those things and the maintaining of them all. So for those who feel they don't really make a difference, if you tithe, you are making a huge difference and you are a part of the church and all that's going on in it with your simply giving of your money, time and prayers.

So next time you walk into church and see all that's going on, thank the Lord that you have "***a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD***" And because you do, all that you see, you had a part in, including things you don't see like if your church does a live stream of it's services, or has a website (Which are not free) and simply helping to pay the pastor and the staff of the church so they are free to do 100% in the church instead of having to go out and earn money with another job.

- † ***Exodus 35:29 The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.***

- † ***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.***