INTRODUCTION

- The Israelites are rejuvenated and recommitted to serve God, and they begin to construct the Tabernacle according to God's design, but it takes unique materials and unique talent.

### Passage | Comments
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**Exodus 35:1-35** | 
Tough Laws, Motivation, & Skill Development  
- vv1-3. Sabbath rules are very specific. Even making a fire to warm the house or to prepare a meal were forbidden.  
- Remember – if the Israelites would keep God’s commandments, as harsh as they may seem to us, they would reap the following benefits:  
  1. No loss of land, only increase Ex 34:22-24  
  2. No sickness among their people Deut 7:15  
  3. No poor in the land Deut 15:4  
  4. No lack of food Deut 28:8  
  5. No lack of good leadership Jer 3:15  
- vv4-5, 21-22. God commands that an offering be taken up from those who have a willing heart.  
  - What's the difference between being motivated or 'moved' to serve God and being manipulated?  
  - What are some indicators of being manipulated?  
    - 20 stanzas of “Just as I AM” while being coaxed to walk the aisle  
    - Constant and consistent emotional pleas  
    - Eloquent speeches with a guilt trip  
  - The leaders encourage people to do the right things and avoid the wrong things  
  - The leaders lead by example  
- vv10, 26, 30-35. Skilled men & women came forward to serve, and God endowed a special man (Bezalel) with multiple talents to work with metals, stone, wood, clothing, and to teach his skills to others  
- Can we tell if someone has been miraculously endowed by God with certain talents or if those talents were naturally or providentially developed over time?

**Exodus 36:1-38** | 
More Tabernacle Artifacts Crafted with High Quality Workmanship [curtains, coverings, screens and the veil]  
- vv3-6. A freewill love offering was so successful the people had to be told to STOP GIVING!  
- Should churches today exhibit high quality attention to all their ministries and facilities? What would be the end result?

**Exodus 37:1-29** | 
Furnishings Inside the Tabernacle [The Ark, with its solid gold mercy seat, tables, utensils, lampstands, alters, and one-of-a-kind anointing oil and incense]  
- We may not have solid good artifacts in churches today, but if we skimp on quality what would be the end result?  
- What should a church do if it lacks the servants or funds to adequately clean its facility or to provide quality teaching?  
  - Consider merging with another church  
  - Do nothing but hope and pray things get better  
  - Find a new Pastor  
  - Change churches  
  - Sing 20 more stanzas of “Just as I AM” with emotional appeals and a guilt trip  
- Leaders roll up their sleeves

**Exodus 38:1-31** | 
Priestly Garments and Breastplate Are Crafted  
- vv10-14. What is the significance of the 12 unique stones ascribed to each of the 12 tribes? Probably nothing more than how we view the colors of our favorite sports teams. God is OK with clan loyalty and distinction. Others believe the stones had some kind of electrical conducting properties when in the presence of the ARK to help discern God’s will, but this is pure speculation  
- v43. So Moses blessed them. HOW? Probably with a vocal blessing for prosperity. Compare how King David blessed his people by providing “each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins” Deut 8:7  

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- God wants people who want to willingly and cheerfully serve Him, though it may be costly at times.  
- We are anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus was, to accomplish great things for His Kingdom, but are we willing to serve with high quality or half-heartedly?  

NEXT WEEK: Leviticus 1-7. The types of purposes of various offerings and ceremonial laws and their application for us

"Dude, blood sacrifices are so old school. Here, if you're going to make an offering, use this. It's much more convenient and a whole lot less messy."