



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 42



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DAY FORTY-TWO

Exodus 36 - 38

More Than Enough

Something extraordinary happens in Exodus 36 before a single beam is raised or a curtain is hung. Moses sends a message through the camp: no one - man or woman - is to make anything more as an offering for the sanctuary. Because the people were bringing more than enough for all the work to be done.

The people who made a golden calf six weeks ago are now giving more than the Tabernacle requires. The same hands that stripped off their earrings to build an idol are now bringing gold and silver and blue and purple and scarlet yarn until the craftsmen tell Moses to make them stop. They had to be restrained from giving.

Repentance that has gone deep enough shows up in the hands. What you once gave to the idol, you can give to God. The same capacity for generosity that was misdirected does not disappear - it gets redirected. The people's extravagant giving was the evidence that something had genuinely changed.

Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom God had given ability went to work. The text is almost meditative in its repetition - they made this, they made that, exactly as the Lord had

commanded. Every loop, every clasp, every frame, every socket. And after every description, the same refrain: just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Thirteen times in Exodus 39, before the chapter ends, that phrase appears: just as the Lord commanded Moses. It is the rhythm of obedience. Not creativity unmoored from instruction. Not personal preference dressed in sacred language. The exact pattern. The exact materials. The exact measurements. The work of their hands was an act of faithfulness.

Obedience is not the enemy of beauty. Bezalel's work was both precisely obedient and staggeringly beautiful. The two do not contradict. The most creative work you will ever do - when it is done within the pattern God gives - will be the most alive work you have ever made.

Chapter 37 is the furnishings. The Ark of the Covenant - acacia wood, pure gold inside and out, the golden rings, the carrying poles, the two golden cherubim hammered from a single piece of gold on the atonement cover. The table of showbread. The pure gold lampstand, hammered from a single talent of gold, its seven lamps positioned to give light to the space before it. The altar of incense, its horns of one piece with it, crowned with gold.

Every object in the Tabernacle is a picture of something. The Ark with its mercy seat: the presence of God resting above the place of atonement. The lampstand: the light of God in the dark space. The

bread of the presence: twelve tribes always before God, always sustained, never forgotten. The altar of incense: prayer rising like fragrant smoke before the Lord. The whole structure is theology made physical. You could walk through the Tabernacle and learn who God is and how He relates to His people without reading a single word.

God communicates through what He builds. The Tabernacle was not just a worship centre. It was a sermon in wood and gold and linen - a visual declaration of the relationship between a holy God and a forgiven people. Look at what He is building in your life the same way. What He is constructing has meaning. Every room He is furnishing is saying something about who He is and who you are becoming.

Chapter 38 describes the outer courtyard: the altar of burnt offering, made of acacia wood overlaid with bronze, with its grating and pots and shovels and basins. The basin for washing, made from the bronze mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. Their mirrors - the objects of personal beauty and appearance - melted down to make the place of ritual cleansing.

- The mirrors that showed them their own reflection were melted to make a basin where the priests washed before serving God. What we use to look at ourselves can be reformed into something that prepares us to serve Him.

The total inventory at the end of chapter 38 is staggering - twenty-nine talents of gold, one hundred talents of silver, seventy talents of bronze. The wealth of Egypt that the Israelites carried out on the night of the Exodus has been poured into the house of God. What the oppressor accumulated, God's people gave back to the One who delivered them.

Everything you carry out of your Egypt - every resource, every skill, every relationship, every hard-won piece of wisdom from the years of struggle - can be given to the building of something that houses God's presence. Nothing from the wilderness is wasted if it ends up in the Tabernacle. Speak this over yourself today:

What I once gave to the wrong things

I can redirect to the right One.

Nothing from my wilderness is wasted

if it ends up in the building of His presence.

TOMORROW - Day 43 Exodus 39-40

The Tabernacle is finished. And when Moses sets it up and anoints it, something happens that silences every worker, stops every craftsman, and fills the tent so completely that even Moses cannot enter. Come back tomorrow.

Day 42 of 365



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