

Friday, May 19, 2023 • Read Exodus 35:1–36:7

Questions from the Scripture text: Whom does Moses gather (v1)? What does he introduce to them? What is the first great part of these commands (v2)? What must be done to those who disobey? What is an example of what this consecration proscribes (v3)? How does v4 re-introduce the speech? What are they to take (v5)? Who should bring it? What should they bring (v5c–9)? Who else should do what (v10)? What, generally, are they to make? What things, specifically (v11–19)? Where do the people go in v20? Who comes in v21? What doubling of language makes what point here? What did they bring? What types of people (v22)? What language now triples the point? What types of things do they bring, generally? What specific things do they bring (v23–24)? Which women brought which specific things in v25? Which women brought which specific things in v26? Which type of people bring the things in v27–28? What, specifically do they bring? Who does v29 summarize the work? What are the people called? What do they bring? Which of the people especially bring? For what kinds of work do they bring? Who had commanded it? By whose hand? Whom does Moses identify whom in v30? Who called him? What else has he done for him (v31) To make what things (v32–33, 35)? And further to do what (v34a)? Who is his second (v34b)? Who else is now mentioned with them in 36:1? Who has done what for them? What manner of work are they to do? According to what? Whom does Moses now address directly (v2)? What has the Lord done to all these people? What do they receive from whom (v3)? What continues to be done after this? But who come in v4? What do they leave in order to come? To whom do they speak (v5)? What “difficulty” do they have? What does Moses give in v6? Where is it proclaimed? Who is prohibited? From doing what? Why (v7)?

How does the Lord’s provision show how intent He is upon dwelling with His people in favor? Exodus 35:1–36:7 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord’s Day. In these forty-two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Lord demonstrated His favorable intent in dwelling among His people by giving generously to them in every way.**

Some time ago, in considering Genesis 6, we noted that the way of saying it was that Noah found grace, but the greater reality was that grace found Noah. In discussing the catechism question this week (WSC87), we have noted with our family that the way of saying it is that we apprehend God’s mercy in Christ, but the greater reality is that God’s grace apprehends us. Now, in this passage, our contemporary editors have referred to this section in terms of the peoples offerings and generosity, but the greater reality is the abundant generosity of God, Who Himself gives even the willing heart. Specifically, we see God giving them Word, worship, willingness, wealth, wisdom, and work.

Word. The section as a whole are “the words which Yahweh has commanded” (v1). The Sabbath is “the thing which Yahweh commanded” (v4). The artisans are to “make all that Yahweh has commanded” (v10). The work is “all kinds of work which Yahweh, by the hand of Moses, had commanded” (v29). The artisans “shall do according to all that Yahweh has commanded” (36:1). The offerings are too much for “the work which Yahweh commanded” (v5).

This all brings us back to God’s detailing the making of all of these things to Moses on the mountain. It’s a reminder that the Lord has intended to dwell with His people. It is not as if He did not know what they were going to do with the calf. He intended for them to know that His purpose of grace was going to overcome even their sin in order dwell in the midst of them in His favorable presence.

What is true for Israel nationally/ecclesiastically in a moment of their history is true in a greater way for the elect from all eternity. By giving us His Word ahead of time, then fulfilling it over-against (even through) our sin and guilt, the Lord demonstrates the resolve of His intent to dwell favorably with us forever.

Worship. It is remarkable that the first great instruction about making the tabernacle is to spend 1/7 of the time NOT making the tabernacle (v2–3). But this has been the case for man with all of his work for all of his existence. The first thing that Adam and Mrs. Adam were to do in taking dominion, being fruitful, multiplying, subduing was... spend their first full day NOT doing those things (cf. Gen 1:26–2:3).

Worship colors all of our working. If we are to know what it is to offer our bodies as living sacrifices in the creation, it must come first by those spiritual sacrifices in the acts of worship by which we act more directly upon the Creator. Now, as they do all of the work in building the tabernacle, they are of course to do it all with a heart of worship. This aspect of the work is emphasized throughout the passage. But, even doing it with such a heart, is not permitted on the Sabbath. Whereas, six days a week, they worship by working, on the Sabbath they worship by NOT working. Indeed, anyone who does this “church business” on the Sabbath is to be executed for it! Not even a fire is to be kindled.

If we’re fleshly enough to shrink back from such a command, let us mourn that we do not understand or value the worship of the Lord, the holiness of the Lord, and the Sabbath of the Lord like we should. But let us also see the amazing mercy of God. The Israelites were much like many of we. But God has shown them a mercy that appears more readily when we erase the artificial chapter division. It is immediately upon giving them the experience of the shining face of Moses that this command comes. He prepares them for the command by literally striking the fear of His glory into their hearts.

Willingness. The commands for collection and construction begin by highlighting a great provision from the Lord: willingness. “Whoever is of a willing heart” (v5). This worshipful, willing heart is a provision from God. The Lord is not saying that giving is optional, as if it’s permissible to be selfish with God. Rather, He is saying that willingness is mandatory. He is provoking willingness, and His Spirit is giving the willingness that is provoked.

It’s like in 2Cor 9:7, where the Lord isn’t saying, “give less than 10%, now, so that you don’t feel like you’re being made to.” That would be a dreadful application of that text. Rather, He is saying, take the opportunity to seek grace from God by which you resolve above that 10% to be bountiful (cf. 2Cor 9:6) in giving. He is saying to look to God for the grace to be cheerful. “God is able to make all grace abound toward you” (cf. 2Cor 9:8). Grace in the hand to have that which to give and grace in the heart with which to give it cheerfully.

This willingness pervades the text. In v21, their hearts lift them up to give. Men and women come (v22). All have willing hearts (v22). Even the spinning women’s hearts lifted them up (v26). It’s a freewill offering (v29). All the artisans’ hearts lift them up to come do the work (36:2). The lord had given not only His Word and worship; He graciously gave great willingness.

Wealth. As we were considering in 2Cor 9, the wealth for the work is another necessary gift from God. And what wealth He gives them! This nation is in the wilderness, just removed from slavery, and what they bring sounds like a treasure trove from an epic fable.

Gold, silver, bronze (v5); blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats’ hair (v5); ram skins dyed red, dolphin (NKJ: ‘badger’) skins, acacia wood (v7); oil, spices (v8); onyx stones and all the other gems for the ephod and breastplate (v9); earrings, nose rings, rings, necklaces, jewelry of gold (v22); blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats’ hair, red skins of rams, dolphin skins (v23); silver, bronze, acacia wood (v24); skill for making more blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen (v25), goats’ hair yarn (v26); onyx stones and ephod and breastplate stones (v27); spices, oil (v28).

Even the multiple repetitions serve to emphasize how much wealth the Lord had provided. The treasures of the world had been concentrated in Egypt in order to be carried out by Israel. Whether from such wealth or from affliction and deep poverty (cf. 2Cor 8:2), God gives believers to see everything that they have as wealth, and all of that wealth as fodder for giving.

Whether the Lord has given you much or given you little, dear reader, He has given you wealth. And that wealth is the companion gift to willingness to give it to Him. In the spirit of worship. According to His Word.

Wisdom. Gifted artisans are needed (v10). How can they be obtained? 31:1–6 has already made it clear that this will not be a search for candidates. Yahweh “called by name” (v30) those whom He Himself would give the wisdom for their calling (v31). This was true of every gifted artisan (36:1, 2). And it is true of all of your knowledge, understanding, and ability. We often focus upon things like ability as if they are innate, and education and training as if they operate mechanically, but God reminds us how personally He is involved in every providence. His Spirit, Who from the beginning of creation has superintended and sustained all the creatures, is the One Who gives each of us any knowledge or skill that we have. Yours, too. All wisdom is a gift from Him.

Work. The work itself is a provision of God. Every bit of each thing that must be given or made offers the privilege of participation in God giving His people His favorable presence. The whole operation is summarized as work even with reference to the fourth commandment (v2). They are to come and work (NKJ: ‘make’) all Yahweh commanded (v10). The offering is for the work (v21). The service was a work (v24). It was all kinds of work that Yahweh used Moses to command (v29). The artisans were to work works (v32). Engravers, designers, and weavers were to work works (v35). All of this was work for the service of the sanctuary (36:1). All the artisans came to work the work (v2), the work of the service (v3), the work of the sanctuary (v4), the work which Yahweh commanded (v5), supplied by the work for the offering (v6), which was sufficient for all the work to be done (v7).

The Lord can do everything. And with respect to all of this facilitating of worship, we bow to the fact that Christ Himself is tabernacle, priesthood, sacrifice, supply. How much the Lord has done for the public worship of His people now under the gospel and into all eternity. What work has He given us to do? To come (too much for many, sadly). To listen. To join voices in song. To join hearts in prayer. To trust in Christ, and lift up our souls in dependence upon Him.

And there is work during the week too: ordering our lives in a way that facilitates all of this. Keeping short accounts with God—tender hearts and quickened minds in the Word by which we will worship. And then all of the earthly and temporal things too, clearing all the other work the Lord has given us to do with diligence and wisdom, taking care of our physical health, preparing logistically to be able to give ourselves entirely to worship on the Lord’s Day. What a privilege the Lord has given us to participate in His dwelling favorably in our midst in the Lord Jesus Christ! May He give us the grace to participate in it with willing hearts!

What work has God given you to do throughout the week? What work has He given you to do on the Lord’s Day? How cheerfully have you been giving yourself and all you have to this? Where can you get more cheerfulness?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for planning from before the world began to dwell favorably among a people whom You had redeemed and adopted! Now, grant that by Your Spirit, we would do all that You have given us to do in participation in this marvelous and merciful plan, we ask through Jesus Christ, AMEN!!

ARP24 “The Earth and the Riches” or TPH152 “Safely through Another Week”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 35 beginning in verse 1 and going through verse 7, Of chapter 36. These are God's words. Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together and said to them. These are the words which Yahweh has commanded you to do. Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you.

A sabbath of rest unto your way. Whoever does any work on? It shall be put to death. You shall kindle. No fire throughout your dwellings. On the side of day. And Moses spoke to all the children. All the congregation of the children of Israel saying this is the thing which you always commanded saying Take from you and offering to your home, whoever is over willing heart.

Let him bring it as an offering to Yahweh gold silver and bronze, blue purple and scarlet. Thread, fine linen. And goat's hair, ram skins dyed, red badger skins and acacia wood. Oil for the light and spices for the anointing oil for the sweet incense. On extends and stones to be set in the effort and in the breastplate.

All, who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make All that Yahweh has commanded. The tabernacle it's tint. It's covering its claps it's boards. It's bars. It's pillars and the sockets. The ark and its poles with the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering the table and its poles, all its utensils on the showbread, Also the lamp stand for the light.

It's utensils. It's lamps and the oil for the light. The incense altar, it's pulls the anointing oil. Sweet incense and the screen for the door, the entrance of the tab neck. The altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, all its utensils, and the lavender and it's base.

The hangings of the court, it's pillars their sockets and the screen for the gate to the course, the pegs of the tabernacle, the pegs of the court and their cords, the garments of ministry for ministering in the holy place. The holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons.

To minister as priests. And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. Then everyone came whose heart was stirred. And everyone whose spirit was willing. And they brought, you always offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting for all its service. And for the holy garments, 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 Yahweh. And every man with whom was found blue purple and scarlet, thread fine linen that's hair red, skins of rams, and badger skins. Brought them. Everyone who offered an offering of silver or bronze, brought, you always offering.

And everyone with whom was found occasion, wood, for any work of the service, brought it all the women who were gifted artisans, Spun yarn with their hands and brought what they had spawned. The blue purple and scarlet and fine linen. And all the women whose hearts stirred with wisdom.

Spun yarn of goods hair. The rulers brought on extends and the stems to be set in the efaen and the breastplate. And spices and oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense. The children of israel brought a free will offering to the office.

All the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work. But Yahweh made with y'all play by the hand of moses. Had commanded. To be done. And Moses said to the children of Israel. See you all the way has called by name. Bezelles, son of uri.

Son of her of the tribe of judah. These filled him with the spirit of god and wisdom and understanding and knowledge. And all manner of workmanship to design artistic works. To work in gold and silver, and bronze and cutting jewels for setting and carving wood. To work in all manner of artistic workmanship.

And he was putting his heart, the ability to teach in him and the holy ad, the son of aesomack and the tribe of dan. Is filled them with skill to do all manner of work. Of the engraver designer and the tapestry maker. In blue purple and scarlet. Thread and fine linen.

And of the weaver, those who do every work and those who design artistic works, And bezel all on the holy ab and every gifted artisan in whom you always, but wisdom and understanding to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary. Shall do according to all that yahai has commanded.

And Moses called bezel out and holyab and every gifted artisan in his heart. Y'all play had put wisdom everyone who's heart was stirred. To come and do the work. And they received from Moses. All the offering, which the children of Israel had brought. For the work of the service of making the sanctuary.

So they continued bringing to him. Free will offerings every morning. Then all the craftsmen who are doing all the work of the sanctuary came each from the work that he was doing. And they spoke to Moses saying the people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which always committed 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 of the work to be done.

Indeed. Too much. So part of the reading of god's inspired and inherent word, Award has agreed to come in the midst of his people. Because obviously planned this. Uh, we see that plan. In great detail in the The details that are given. For the making of all of these things, the lists of which make this quite Um quite a long passage for us to have a sermon on an exodus longer than we usually have.

But you remember when Moses is on the mountain, all of those things were described and all the different aspects of the purposes of of all those things and gods, good plan. To dwell graciously. Among his people. And of course, this reminds us that this is the plan. Behind. Everything.

Um, in all of creation, all of providence. That god ultimately would dwell among his people in the lord jesus christ. And, That his dwelling among his people would would be. The tabernacling or the Or the temple at the last. And so there's something very similar there on a large scale of all of creation and history here on a smaller scale.

We are reminded That it was the purpose of god to say yes to this. That he would go with his people that he would be among them. And then we see. Um, With the wisdom of god, in the way he has. Uh, led up to this point. Again, this is one of those places where chapter division doesn't service very well.

Because they are very prepared to hear. Uh, the fourth commandment restated, right? At the beginning of all this work, the most appointed, most important part of the work of building the tabernacle Was that one-seventh of the time that they were to be building the tabernacle? They were not to be building?

The tabernacle. And so, the lord has given them. The experience of being terrified of moses is shining face. To remind them of the glory and the holiness, and the power of the one who has come to dwell among them. And that there is a light and a goodness in him.

That is full of that almighty glory and that almighty power. So that when he says these are the words which you always commanded to you work shall be done for six days but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you. A sabbath of rest until y'all play and whoever does any work on?

It shall be put to death. That they would be prepared by their recent experience over against The remaining rebelliousness in their hearts which is great as we are going to be fighting out for their for the rest of the next 40 years. Over 39. I guess at this point, but they would Uh, They would have this immediate experience of the shining face of Moses and the warning about the fabot, to remind them how great the work is but that it's greatness comes.

From the one, whose tabernacle. Is being built. And so, yes, you do all of your work with reverence as unto the lord. And there is that worship of god. That that occurs in your working six days. Uh but there is a greater worship of god that comes not by work but by not working.

So this is the worship of working all for your body is living sacrifice, so it's worth. And there is the worship of not working, which is consecrated. And he institutes, the death death penalty there. So we have first and foremost the worship principle. And then you have the willingness that god provides god is provided.

Uh, worship god provides willingness. This is the thing which you always commanded same, take from you and offering to Yahweh. Whoever is ever willing heart. Now, everyone should have a willing heart. And yet. Uh, this, this is not. This is not saying If you don't have a willing heart, that's okay.

Saying. You must not only give you must give willingly. Don't give to the lord. As. As if he is extracting from you, something miserable. Give because you have recognized. From the heart that it is a privilege and honor. To, to be able. Enabled to give to the lord. And indeed, the willingness comes from the lord.

We're going to have several times, or we have several times the rest of the passage Everyone came who's heart was stirred and his spirit was willing verse 21. Um, there are the women verse 26, whose hearts were stirred. With their wisdom, they didn't just know how, but the lord was giving them.

Uh, willingness Uh, everyone who's heart was stirred. Uh, chapter 36. In verse 2. The, the lord gives his people. Uh, willingness this uh for this real office, so he gives them worship. And he gives them willingness. And he gives them. Work all who are gifted artisans. Shall come. Um, Sorry.

The third thing was wealth. Worship, willingness and wealth. Versus five through nine and, and then again later, In verse 20 through. 29, all the things that are needed. The lord has Uh, given to them. So he's given them, not just the willingness of the heart. Uh, but the wealth to employ it And he's not just giving them the work to do now.

Uh, work. Verse 10 and so forth. All who are gifted artisans among you shall come. And make all that you always has commanded. So he gives them work and wisdom. The first ones who are said to have this wisdom are the women and whose hearts are stirred with wisdom, but then he also mentions by name.

Uh, bezel and the holy ab And many gifted artisans, but Bezel, all and And the holy ab. The things, what they are especially able to do is to teach The, the rest of the artisans. So, he gives some work and he gives them wisdom. For the work. So you see the lord.

And gives first of all worship. But then he gives us wealth. And willingness to use it. And he gives us work. And wisdom to be able to do it. But the clear thing in all five of these things, The. Uh, worship the willingness, the wealth, the work, and the wisdom.

Is that they are gifts from the lord. The people of israel. I have demerited all of this, but not only has lord in his favor. Forgiven. But he has been full of abundant generosity. So that when we come at the end, And the people have given more than enough.

We don't say oh wow. Look how generous the people were We say, look at the amazing generosity of god. That has spilled over an abundance. That the people. Received the worship. Well, well. But for the willingness, the wealth work. The wisdom. To give. More than enough. Such as what god himself does in christ.

He supplies all our needs supporting his riches. In christ, jesus. Especially first, and foremost. That he may dwell among us. And that he may give us. Everything that is necessary for responding to him. That we may have. May rightly respond to an interact with him. In his dwelling among us.

Father, we thank you that you have given us. Christ, that it has been your intention. From before the world begin. That we would have you dwell among us. Favorably.

And blessed me and we pray. Lord that you. Would keep providing us what we need. You pray that? And you would give us reverence for you and everything we do. But it, especially when it comes to your day. That we would realize that.

That if we do, actually, Reverence you, it is. More than just, A state of mind or condition of our heart. But that we will keep the day then that you have set apart for that. Then help us lord in the other six days. To offer that which we do is worship on team.

We asked this in Christ's name.