

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Willing Hearts – Exodus 35

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Sunday, April 19, 2015

These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions and family or personal devotions.

1. What did you learn in Pastor John's introduction about the various offerings that the people of Israel gave?
2. How did the tabernacle activities foreshadow the coming of Jesus Messiah?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:8-11 and examine the parallels with Exodus 35:4-29. How is the message in Peter different from that of Exodus?
4. Pastor John gave us 7 points coming out of Exodus 35:
 - a. *They gave in response to God's invitation (vs 4)* God doesn't need anything from us, so why invite us? What parallels that invitation in our worship?
 - b. *God used their stuff to build the tabernacle.* God did not need the Israelite's "stuff", but he accepted it willingly. Why did He do this?
 - c. *Everyone has something (5, 20, 22, 29) to contribute.* From these verses, instead of a perceived value amount, what seemed to be more important to God? Read also Mark 12:41-44 and Malachi 3: 6-10. With all of the scriptural verses that address giving, discuss what are some of the lingering obstacles preventing believers to give as they should? Also from Malachi 3:10, please share any testimonies where God had provided specific blessings when you gave by faith? (even when you gave away your Marvel comics!)
 - d. *You can't give what you don't have (5).* Have you ever downplayed your well-being/wealth?
 - e. *To whom much is given, much is required.* Has God taught you this lesson?

- f. *The result of giving is the magnifying (30) of God's beauty.* Can you think of ways that your gifting and skills have brought glory to God's beauty?
 - g. *They gave in response to God's grace (4, 22, 29).* How has God's grace opened your heart to give to His work? Is it possible that we can make 'golden calves' out of gifts that God has given to us?
5. A comparison was made between the Israelites' former lives, where they were **forced** to build for the glory of Pharaoh and their new task, where they were being **invited** to help build something for the glory of God. Consider the many ways we use our money for obligations. What does it take to view tithing and giving to the Lord's work as a joy instead of an obligation?
- a. Love will motivate people to do far more than they would from any other motivation. What is the source of your love for God and how does it impact your attitude toward giving?
6. The word tabernacle was used to mean that the Lord would dwell among the Israelites. This is the reason that they gave their best to the construction of this mobile temple. If it was to be where God would dwell, then He deserved the people's best for His home.
- a. In which ways do we succeed in giving God our best as individuals and as His people?
 - b. In which ways do we fail to give God our best as individuals and as His people?
 - c. If our hearts are now His tabernacle, how should our lives be built and "decorated" to show the world that God lives there?
7. Pastor John read for us a very poignant letter from Adoniram Judson as he sent a written proposal to Nancy Hasseltine through his father, here is the letter:

"I have now to ask, whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world; whether you can consent to her departure, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life; whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death. Can you consent to all this, for the sake of him who left his heavenly home, and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing, immortal souls, for the sake of Zion, and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with the crown of righteousness, brightened with the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Savior from heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?"

As you read this a time or two, is there really any less of a challenge to us as we embark to live a life of service to Christ? What words could you substitute to more appropriately describe our challenges of

living a Christian life here in Canada? Please read Romans 8:28-39 and share how this passage might encourage us in our faith.