

**Series: Blessed to Be a Blessing**  
**“How to Accomplish the Work of God”**  
**Exodus 35-36**

**Introduction:**

1. The tabernacle of God was a huge, moveable tent 45 feet long by 15 feet wide and 15 feet high. This tabernacle was to be the center of worship and revelation for the Israelites as they traveled through the wilderness.
2. This was a huge undertaking. It would take a massive amount of material wealth and resources to build the tabernacle. Where would it come from? God reveals the plan to Moses in **Exodus 25:1-8**.
3. The needs for the building project would be met by the people of Israel.
  - The people were to give, and as the people gave, the work of God would be accomplished.
  - Did you know that people are the only means God has of getting His work accomplished? God is committed to using people.
4. It is the same way today in the church age - this dispensation of grace. The church could not function, teach the Bible, and get out the gospel without the faithful giving of God's people. God still uses people today.
5. This morning, let's look into God's Word and see exactly how God's work of building the tabernacle was accomplished.

**First, the people gave with a right attitude.**

1. God specified the attitude that was to be present in those who gave for the tabernacle. 25:2 - What is the key word? The key word is "**willingly.**"
2. Moses reiterated this in 35:5. Let's see how the people did. 35:21-22, 29
  - To give willingly implies that they were giving voluntarily or eagerly.
3. It is interesting that God not only knew **what** the people gave, but He knew the attitudes and motives of their hearts when they gave.
4. Did you know that God is very interested in our motivation? During Jesus' earthly ministry to Israel, Jesus taught that one's motive in giving will determine his eternal reward. **Matthew 6:2-4**
5. The apostle Paul also taught the importance of one's attitude when giving in **2 Corinthians 9:7**.
  - To give grudgingly is to give with sadness, grief, or sorrow.
  - Have you ever asked somebody to do something and they act like it is really putting them out? How did it make you feel?
6. God wants His people to give willingly, out of love for Him. This is why God did not tell Moses to use gimmicks to obtain gifts for the tabernacle. There were no door prizes, bingo games, church raffles, church suppers, or church rummage sales.
  - The need was simply laid out before the people and their hearts responded.
7. Christ is our example of giving willingly. He gave His life on the cross for our sin because He willingly chose to do so. The Father didn't coerce Him. **John 10:17-18**
  - When we give willingly, this is so Christ-like.

### **Second, the people gave as God enabled them.**

1. Notice **Exodus 35:5**, "*Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord...*"
2. The people could only give what God had blessed them with. Notice the phrase, "with whom was found." vs. 23-24
3. Notice all the different things people brought (vs. 22-28). Everyone gave of what they had. They gave as God enabled them to give.
4. We see this same principle in the church age today. In **1 Corinthians 16:2**, Paul instructs church age saints to give "*...as God hath prospered*" you. In other words God doesn't expect us to give what we don't have. cf. **2 Corinthians 8:12**
5. This is why Moses did not say, "I want every Israelite to bring \$1,000 to help build the tabernacle." Some of them probably didn't have \$1,000. Some had silver and gold they could give, but others had cloth and linen they could give.
6. God says, "You give as I have enabled you to give." Much more important than the amount is the heart and the sacrifice involved. This is what God looks at.
7. Again, Christ is our example. He didn't have wealth or possessions to give to the world. But He had a perfect, sinless body, and He offered it for us.  
**Hebrews 10:5, 10, 12**

### **Third, the people gave more than enough.**

1. As the gifts started pouring in, Moses got his builders started on this building project. **Exodus 36:2-3**
2. Something rather unusual happened at this point. The men stopped working and came to Moses with a problem (36:4). What do you think the problem was?
  - Verse 5 - "Moses, you've got to stop the people from giving. We've got more than we can use." What a problem to have!
  - So Moses stands up before the people and says, "Enough, enough - please stop giving." Verse 6 is amazing - "*...the people were restrained from bringing.*"
3. I don't see this happening much in churches today. Can you imagine me standing before you saying, "Enough, please stop giving. We don't know what to do with all this money."
4. Of course we live in a different dispensation today. They were trying to build a tabernacle, but our work today is far bigger. Our work is to preach the gospel of God's grace to everyone in this world. **Colossians 1:27-28**
  - Until that happens, we must keep sending missionaries, keep planting churches, keep starting new ministries, keep reaching out, keep teaching and training people in God's Word. The LIFE building is simply a tool to accomplish these things.
5. Here's the point from our text - when God's people's hearts are right, there will always be sufficient resources to meet the needs. God's work will be accomplished.
  - I remember 13 years ago when our church was up against a seemingly insurmountable wall. But God's people met the challenge. They gave with a right attitude, they gave sacrificially as God enabled them, and God met every need.
6. Again Christ is our ultimate example. When He died on the cross and shed His blood, it was enough to save the entire world. **1 John 2:2; 1 Timothy 2:6**

7. Will everyone in the world be saved? No, because not everyone will choose to believe, but it is not because Christ's death wasn't sufficient. It is more than enough to save anyone and everyone who will come by faith and trust Him as their Savior.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Do you see from God's Word how God's work is accomplished? It's accomplished through people.
  - People who give with willing hearts.
  - People who give sacrificially through God's enablement.
2. The result is that God's work is able to move forward and be accomplished. Souls can be saved and believers can be taught and rooted in God's Word. All of this results in changed lives, and that is what CrossRoads is all about.