

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Art Month – HEART OF THE ARTS ④ Beautiful Offerings

INTRODUCTION | Generosity Beautiful Offerings

In today's scripture passage we read about a worship tent called the tent of meeting. This is the story of how this beautiful tent was built with each person's free offering. In this passage let's focus on 3 things. First, let us look for those things we have been gifted with, abilities, talents to be used to God's glory and the benefit of others. Secondly, why did the people, of their own prompting in generosity and joy bring these things to the Lord? Let's think about this motivation and need behind this behavior. Thirdly, each of us should, in accordance with our gifting, let us discover how we can use our gifts and talents in our community.

SCRIPTURE | Exodus 35:20-35

20 Then all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. 21 And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. 22 So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the Lord. 23 And every one who possessed blue or purple or scarlet yarns or fine linen or goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or goatskins brought them. 24 Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the Lord's contribution. And every one who possessed acacia wood of any use in the work brought it. 25 And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. 26 All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair. 27 And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, 28 and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. 29 All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord. 30 Then Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, 32 to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. 34 And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. 35 He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.

QUESTIONS |

- 1: (verses 20,29) What kind of offering could a people wandering in the wilderness bring to the Lord? Considering this, what surprises you?
- 2: In regards to generous giving, generally speaking how is it perceived? If you were to live a life of constantly giving yourself what kind of life would that be?
- 3: (verses 21,29) Why did the Israelites give with this kind of generosity? What was their motivation?
- 4: In thinking of Israel's history we can remember that God saved them in the Exodus yet they immediately turned to idolatrous worship of a golden calf. Moses offered his own life as a sacrifice which God received. What kind of influence do you think this incident had when the people brought their gifts in chapter 35?

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5: (verses 21,22,26,29,31,35) What was the people's attitude as they gave and made the tent? The people gave an unbelievable amount. Why was that? (Reference Exodus 36:56)

6: What kind of effect will your attitude, joy and sacrificial giving have on our interpersonal relationships? How should you be giving into the Lord?

REFERENCES |

Exodus 32: 31-32

31 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."

Exodus 36: 5-6

And said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do." 6 So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, 7 for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

PRAYER |

- God has for glorious beauty and wonder, more than just ourselves we given grace through the gospel of Christ to us. Let us praise the Lord. By living a life of generosity we can show this glory.
- Let's pray as we think on Christ and the cross of sacrifice and God's boundless love. These thoughts should be the ground of our that's If you feel your weakness to not be able to give your time, money and abilities to the glory of God and the gospel. Think over the love, grace and forgiveness of God. Let us pray for our hearts to be deeply soaked in gospel grace.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

- 1) Lunch time meeting (Marunouchi 28th, Otemachi 29th)
- 2) Ibaraki flood relief volunteer trip (31st)
- 3) Worship location (November 1 KDDI hall)
- 4) Devotion seminar #1 (11/1)
- 5) Lunch time netting (Kasumigaseki 12/4, Otemachi 11/5)
- 6) Obento project (11/7)
- 7) Worship location (11/8 Nihonbashi Ftower)