

## **Message for November 25, 2018**

### **Any Giving Sunday**

#### **Psalm 103:1 New Living Translation (NLT)**

**<sup>1</sup> Let all that I am praise the LORD;  
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.**

#### **Exodus 35:4-22 Living Bible (TLB)**

**<sup>4</sup> Then Moses said to all the people, “This is what the Lord has commanded: <sup>5-</sup>  
<sup>9</sup> All of you who wish to, all those with generous hearts, may bring these offerings to Jehovah: Moses provides a list of the needs to build and equip the tabernacle.**

**Moses then adds: <sup>10-19</sup> “Come, all of you who are skilled craftsmen having special talents, and construct what God has commanded us: Jump right in and help.**

**Look how the people responded:**

**<sup>20</sup> So all the people went to their tents to prepare their gifts. <sup>21</sup> Those whose hearts were stirred by God’s Spirit returned with their offerings of materials for the Tabernacle, its equipment, and for the holy garments. <sup>22a</sup> Both men and women came, all who had willing hearts.**

**For three Sundays we have looked at the Psalms as a guide to being thankful, to always having a grateful, (Because this honors God). And then the importance of gathering corporately to worship God.**

**Part of our worship always includes our giving. Giving of ourselves and giving of our resources. They go hand in hand, always.**

**Why do people give in the first place?**

**Exodus 35-36 tells us.**

**What happened next is found in Exodus 36.**

**Exodus 36:3-7 Living Bible (TLB)**

**<sup>3</sup>Moses gave them the materials donated by the people and additional gifts were received each morning.**

**<sup>4-7</sup> But finally the workmen all left their task to meet with Moses and told him, "We have more than enough materials on hand now to complete the job!" So, Moses sent a message throughout the camp announcing that no more donations were needed. Then at last the people were restrained from bringing more!**

**The people had caught the vision and their hearts said yes.**

**They gave from their hearts and they gave to the vision and it's all tied to worship.**

**All giving is a matter of the heart. I can't think of anything more counter-cultural than parting with resources. In culture it doesn't make sense.**

**If someone gives, they do it because something deep inside them has been affected. It is generated by a vision. Of being part of something bigger than they are.**

**A lot of teaching on stewardship is guilt-based, even fear-based. That is not biblical. Yes, the Bible teaches that there are blessings when we give as part of our worship.**

**But that's not how God wants to motivate us.**

**When Moses shared the vision, the people were so taken by the vision, they couldn't stop giving to the God who had freed them from slavery. And that same God frees us from the slavery of our sin.**

**But people don't just give "from," but they give "to." And what they give "to" is vision.**

**We teach people that giving is an act of worship. (Ushers give us an opportunity to worship through our giving)**

**But it is more than money.**

**It is the giving of our hearts, and then the commitment of our wills to the cause. It's Kingdom building!**

**And God blesses the giver.**

**And God honors the giver.**

**And God gives to the giver.**

**No wonder people give.**

**Some have the impression that any sermon or conversation about giving is about the church's need to pay its bills.**

**Everyone received a letter this week. It talked about what that vision looks like.**

**We want to give from our hearts, but we want everyone to catch the vision and then give to the vision as we wrap up this year.**

**Remember who you are and to who you belong.**

**AMEN**