

Pastor Jim Jackson, 8/14/16

Exodus: Finding Freedom, pt. 26—The People Work for God

Exodus 31:1-11; 35:30-36:1

Bezalel and Aholiab are GIFTED by God to work

On Mt. Sinai, God instructed Moses about the construction of the ark and the tabernacle. God told Moses He had chosen Bezalel and Aholiab to lead the work. As Moses was Israel's gifted spiritual leader, these two men were Israel's gifted construction supervisors. Bezalel was filled with the Spirit of God to do the work of God. He and Aholiab were empowered by the Holy Spirit to have the wisdom and ability to build the ark and the tabernacle. *The Holy Spirit indwells a person for salvation and infill's them for serving.* God does not give everyone the same gifts but imparts it to them as He sees fit for His purposes (1 Cor. 12:11). God may give a gift that was not requested, but it is up to the individual for it to be invested. Sometimes a person's gift is supernatural and sometimes it is a 'super' use of the person's natural ability. In either case, the Holy Spirit will give the *inclination, intelligence and industry* to fulfill His calling. Bezalel was already a craftsman having worked on wood and metals in Egypt as a slave (Ex. 36:1, 2). He didn't realize that God would one day use his skill to bless the world! *Many times skills learned in human frustration are used later for God's glorification.*

Bezalel and Aholiab TRAIN others to work

Just like with Adam and Eve or Israel or the church, God does not ask Bezalel to do it alone. Even though he is skilled, God asked him to disciple others and build a team. *God's Kingdom is teamdom—everyone doing their part in unity for the glory of God* (1 Cor. 12:27). Believers with ability should find joy in training others to find joy serving God. There is no 'sacred' or 'secular' work—everything is sacred if it is done for God. Ultimately, every skill and craft finds its origination in God. So, unless it is immoral, illegal, or unbiblical, there is no 'mundane' or 'worthless' work that God can't use (Gen. 4:20-22). Because of this, all work done for God should be done with excellence to the best of a person's ability (Col. 3:23). *Laziness with God's gifts, skills, and opportunities are unacceptable* (Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10-12). Everyone, and especially men, often find their joy in working hard and producing and providing, which is a gift from God (Prov. 22:29; Ecc. 3:11-13; 5:18-20; 9:10). *Believers are to set an example to the next generation as they learn how to serve God by watching and doing* (Ps. 145:4; Heb. 13:7)!