

STOP GIVING!

EXODUS 36:1-7



“You’re giving too much, you have to stop.” Have you ever heard a church say that before? “Too much. Stop giving!” That would be a really wonderful problem to have, wouldn’t it? Moses faced that wonderful problem in Exodus 36:1-7.

LEARNING

GOD GIVES FREELY AND FULLY TO HIS PEOPLE (1-3)

The Lord gave skill, intelligence, and enthusiasm to the craftsmen to work on the Tabernacle (1-2). But they needed materials to work with. So, the Lord gave generous hearts to the people to bring all the necessary materials (3). Although this passage focuses attention on the people’s giving, it’s framed in such a way that it’s clear that, ultimately, it’s God’s giving.

A GIVING GOD CREATES
A GIVING PEOPLE.

So what happens when a giving God results in a giving people?

GOD'S PEOPLE GIVE FULLY AND FREELY TO HIM (4-7)

The craftsmen gave their labor fully and freely to the Lord's work, and the people gave the materials freely and fully to the Lord's work. And they gave not just once, but every morning. In fact, they gave so much that the craftsmen eventually came to Moses and said. **"The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do"** (6). The people were bringing so much that the craftsmen couldn't get on with the actual work.

What a scene that must have been! The craftsmen wanted to get on with their work, but they were spending the whole time receiving materials, organizing them, making space for them, and they just got organized when another wave of materials came. Eventually Moses banned the people from giving any more materials (6) and **the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more** (6-7). They actually had to be restrained from giving more because the craftsmen already had more than enough. Their more than sufficient giving mirrored God's more than sufficient giving.

A GIVING PEOPLE
REVEAL A GIVING GOD.

LOVING

This is like an Old Testament Pentecost. In Acts 2, we read of what happened when God gave his Spirit. **And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved** (44-47). Wouldn't you like to see something like this again? "Giving God, give freely and fully of your Spirit, as you have done before, and we will give ourselves, and all that we have, freely and fully to you

LIVING

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21).
