

Steve Holland. 1st March 2009 Exodus 25 v 1 – 8

We are all in this together in Giving

An offering to build the Tabernacle

Intro

- Last time I spoke I told you the story of Moses and his visit from Jethro the leader of his Wife's family.
- I said I would do a series entitled "we are all in this together"
- We saw that a church is not a building or a meeting. Church is the people of God. We are church.
- Today we are taking up an offering to help our friends in their move to Tajikistan
- We are going to look at a passage in the bible about a time when Moses took up an offering.
- We can learn about giving for as we do this.
- There are two types of giving we see in the bible
 - Giving regularly
 - Giving for a special offering or occasion
- Today our talk is about giving for a special offering.

Start

- Moses was the leader of God's people Israel.
- They were slaves in Egypt.
- God told them they were going to leave and helped Moses persuade Pharaoh (the king of Egypt – Pharoah in Kurdish) to let them go by sending disaster on the Egyptians.
- As they are about to leave they did as God told Moses and asked the Egyptians for going away presents

NIV Exodus 12 v ³³ The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" ³⁴ So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. ³⁵ The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. ³⁶ The LORD had made the Egyptians favourably disposed toward

the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians

- a. We do not know why the Egyptians gave them Gold and silver and good quality cloth for making clothes.
 - i. God told his people to ask for it not demand it
 - ii. It was God's idea not the peoples idea
 - iii. The Egyptians were happy to give the valuable items to the Israelites and we can guess why
 - 1. They felt sorry for them all those years working for them as slaves
 - 2. They recognized that they owed them wages for making them work all those years with no pay.
 - 3. They wanted the disasters that had happened to them to stop and were happy to give some valuables away in the hope that if these people went then their problems would go to.
 - 4. They realised that the God of the Israelites had defeated them and that they were expected to pay tribute to them as the.
 - iv. What ever the reason we see that each of the Israelite families went to the house of the Egyptians and asked them (as God had told them) for Gold, silver and good quality clothing. They all left Egypt rich with the things the Egyptians gave them.

2. The Escape

- a. On the very night they escape for Egypt they take all these valuables from the Egyptians.
- b. They then cross the desert to the red sea and camp.
- c. As they go they are lead by a pillar of Cloud.
- d. God tells them to remember this day of rescue every year.
 - i. To have a special celebration that lasts 7 days.
 - ii. Remember how the first born son of all the Egyptians died on the night of Passover.
 - iii. Remember how you put the blood of a lamb on your door and all your children were ok.
 - iv. You are to give the first born male of every animal that is born to God.

- v. When you have your first son you are to give him to God.
 - vi. You are to take an animal and kill it as a sacrifice to me.
 - vii. This way you can remember how God saved all your first born sons this night for the rest of time.
- e. The Egyptians then come after them and we read of what happened that night.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

¹³ Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

3. The night by the red sea

- a. Before we talked about the crossing of the red sea but I want to think a bit about the night before.
- b. The Egyptians are coming up with a huge army
- c. The people are terrified
- d. Moses tells them that the Lord will fight for them – just be still

- e. The pillar of cloud they had followed moves behind them and cuts them off from the Egyptians.
- f. On the Egyptians side it is all dark and on the other side the cloud is burning bright light so that the people can see all night.
- g. While Moses prays and holds his hand over the water the cloud stays in place keeping the people safe.
- h. The amazing thing is that God was in that Cloud.
- i. It was God who led them in the cloud to the Red sea.
- j. It was God in the cloud who made it light on their side and dark on the other and it was God in the cloud who made it impossible for anyone to get across from one camp to the other all night.
- k. In the morning the people cross the sea and then the cloud move on ahead of them.
- l. Now the Egyptians move into the sea and God looking down from the pillar of cloud makes sure they get confused and stuck so that all the water comes down on them and destroys pharaoh's army.
- m. The people are amazed at what God has done to rescue them but we have not finished with the cloud yet.
- n. The people follow the cloud in the day time as God leads them and at night it becomes a pillar of fire for them to follow.
- o. God leads them to a mountain called Sinai or Horeb

¹ In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on the very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ² After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³ Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you ^[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The

people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you." Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes ¹¹ and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. ¹³ He shall surely be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on him. Whether man or animal, he shall not be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they go up to the mountain."

¹⁴ After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵ Then he said to the people, "Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations."

4. The cloud on the mountain

- a. Three months later they arrive at the mountain.
- b. Moses goes up the mountain a little way to speak to God.
- c. God tells Moses that in three days time God is going to meet with them at this mountain and they need to get ready.
- d. They put signs up and guards round the mountain and get all cleaned up in their best clothes to meet with God.

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain ^[b] trembled violently, ¹⁹ and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

²⁰ The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up ²¹ and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the

LORD and many of them perish. ²² Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them." ²³ Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.' " ²⁴ The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them." ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.

- e. So on the third day all the people are in their best clothes in their tents and they hear thunder. They look at the mountain and they see a cloud coming down and lightning shooting out. The cloud is not still but billowing like the smoke from a fire and yet it is a cloud. They can also hear over the thunder the loudest sound from lots of trumpets. Like loads of people honking their car horns. They are really scared.
 - f. Moses leads them out so they are standing with him at the bottom of the mountain. As they stand there the cloud comes down closer and the whole mountain shakes like an earthquake. God comes down the mountain in the cloud and the light of his Glory can be seen in the cloud.
 - g. Moses goes up the mountain to speak to God but before he has gone far God sends him back down again to tell the people to stay at the bottom.
 - h. Tell them that if they come up into the Glory then they will be destroyed because of their sin.
 - i. Moses goes back up the mountain with his Brother Aaron as God told him to.
5. What happens up the mountain
- a. While they are up the mountain God gives them some laws to live by Shariat Law – we call it the 10 commandments. (Muslims have the word Sharia and we hear of countries that have sharia)
 - b. He also tells them how to live and gives them rules for how to behave towards each other.
 - c. He tells them about festivals they are to celebrate to remember him each year.
 - d. He promises to be with them, to lead and protect them.
 - e. He promises them a land to live in and tells them where it is and how big it is.
 - f. He promises to give the land to them.

6. Moses comes down

- a. Then Moses came down and told the people what God had said.
- b. All the people are very happy and agree that they want to follow God's law (shariat) and be lead by God and protected by him.

7. Up the mountain again

- a. The next day they burn an offering of a bull and Moses sprinkles blood on the people and 70 of the leaders go a little way up the mountain to meet with God.
- b. Only Moses goes up further and all the people wait at the bottom.
- c. The bible says that the 70 elders of the people, Moses, his brother Aaron and two other important leaders sat and had a meal in the presence of God. How amazing.
- d. God met with normal human beings and they ate some of the meat from the bull that had been sacrificed and drank in front of him.
- e. The bible makes it clear the he did not hurt them.
- f. The leaders come down the mountain and go back into the camp with the people. How amazing – can you imagine the meal that evening in each of the leaders tents. Everyone from the family would be there to hear their descriptions of what it was like being in God's presence.

¹⁵ When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶ and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷ To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸ Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

8. Moses up the mountain for a week
 - a. Moses and his assistant are called by God to go up the mountain for a whole week.
 - b. The cloud is there – the people know Moses is up there somewhere with Joshua.
 - c. On the seventh day God calls Moses to come and speak to him for 40 days and nights,
 - d. The people can see the glory of God on the mountain and it looks like fire in the cloud.
9. What did God say to Moses?
 - a. Lots of things but the first thing was this.
 - b. I am going to come down from this mountain and live in the middle of your camp.
 - c. I want you to build me a special tent so that I can be with you in the camp not just in the mountain.
 - d. It needs to be specially made so that I can be with you and people can be safe from my Glory.
 - e. But first Moses I am going to tell you how to get the materials to make this tent.

Offerings for the Tabernacle

1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. 3 These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; 4 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 5 ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; 6 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; 7 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. 8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

10. The offering
 - a. You Moses are to tell the people that they are to bring offering.
 - b. They are to bring the offering to you and you are to take it from them.
 - c. You are to tell them that they can bring certain valuable items.
 - i. Items of good quality, the best that is fitting for me.
 - d. Tell them to bring Gold and silver
 - e. Tell them to bring brass

- f. Tell them to bring expensive blue cloth made with exclusive coloured dyes.
- g. Tell them to bring expensive purple cloth of the type worn by the royal family
- h. Tell them to bring expensive red cloth so that the tent will look bright.
- i. Tell them to bring some of the fine linen from Egypt the really fine stuff that looks and feels like silk to the touch.
- j. Tell them to bring you fine soft good quality Goat hair.
- k. Tell them to bring Leather the Skins of Rams that are that excellent red colour.
- l. Tell them to bring skins of seals form the red sea that can cover the tent and protect it from the elements.
- m. Tell them to bring olive oil
- n. Tell them to bring expensive spices and incense for worshipping me in the tent.
- o. Tell them to bring all sorts of precious stones from the jewellery that they carry.
- p. All these things are very precious and would have been the things given to the people as they left Egypt.
- q. Tell them to bring acacia wood that they have collected as they travelled in the desert.
- r. Moses you are not to make the people bring the offering. Simply tell them what you need and then ask them to bring it. Let only those whose hearts prompt them to give bring these valuable items to you to build my tent.

11. We are going to take a break from the story here

12. What about us

- a. We have an opportunity to give money to help see the church built.
- b. We can give on special occasions like today
- c. We can give regularly each month as we get paid.
- d. We give money because our leaders ask us too
- e. We do not give money because we have to, to be part of the Crown.
- f. We give because our hearts are willing.
- g. We can see that in giving to the church we are giving to God.

13. We broke because the story breaks here

- a. Exodus 35

²⁰ Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, ²¹ and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. ²² All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD. ²³ Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or hides of sea cows brought them. ²⁴ Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the LORD, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. ²⁵ Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun—blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. ²⁶ And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. ²⁷ The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. ²⁸ They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹ All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

- b. A great deal happened between God telling Moses and him telling the people and not all of it good but in exodus 35 we read that the following happened.
 - i. Firstly Moses asked the people to give.
 - ii. Everyone went off away from Moses. Get those who collected items earlier to bring them to the front as each is mentioned.
 - iii. Those whose heart moved them brought all the things needed to the meeting tent.
 - iv. The skilled women spent time spinning the coloured cloth and brought it to God.
 - v. Some had the skill and spun the goat hair.
 - vi. The leaders brought the expensive stones and the spices
 - vii. Lots of people brought gold silver, leather, and coloured cloth
 - viii. Some brought acacia wood as an offering to God
- c. They all brought the offering freely without having to and there was plenty of supplies to build the tabernacle as God has commanded.

³³ Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the

work. ³⁴ Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; ³⁷ but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. ³⁸ So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels.

14. It took some time to build the tent and then the day came when it was ready.

- a. They had special sacrifices of animals
- b. Everyone got washed and put on their best clothes.
- c. Moses made the final touches, hanging the curtain that was the entrance.
- d. The cloud that had led them through the desert moved and the very presence of God came and dwelt in the centre of the camp in the tabernacle the new tent of meeting.
- e. The Glory Of God was now right there in the heart of the camp. If you wanted to worship him you did not need to go up the mountain, he was there with you.
- f. How amazing was it. Imagine how it felt
- g. Imagine how you would feel if you knew your piece of Gold or cloth or leather had been used to make the tent.
- h. Your little contribution was now part of the tent in which the Glory of God was present.
- i. The God of the earthquake, the lightning and the fire was there in the camp.
- j. The cloud of the presence of God would stay over the tent until it was time to move.
- k. Then the cloud would move out to guide and lead them where they had to go.

15. Today we do not need to go to a special tent to meet with God but we can know him each one individually for ourselves. The Holy spirit can come to each one of us.

¹⁷" In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

In January the Lord gave me a picture

- Of a muddy piece of plastic on the ground
- The lord spoke to me from several verses including the passage we looked at today.
- Then the picture moved to that of a large tent with people of many nations coming in and worshiping God. God wants all of us to be involved in this.
- We can all get involved to do things to see the church built up
- We can all get involved in giving to see the church built.
- God is building a church here where people from lots of different cultures and backgrounds can worship together. He is doing it to bring more Glory to the Name of Jesus his Son.
- We have an opportunity to be part of it by giving of our time, money and abilities.
- We only give if we are willing. We do not have to. If you are visitors we do not expect you to give, you are welcome as our guests.
- If you feel that the Crown is your home then just like Moses I would ask you to plan to give of your time abilities and money to see this church built.
- Just like the people in the story you need to go off and see what you can give. If you are married you need to talk to your husband or wife. See how much is right to give.
- At the back we have a box which you can put cheques or cash in. It is there each week. If you are a UK tax payer you can gift aid your giving and we will get about 28p from the tax man for every pound you give.
- This talk is about making a one off special gift.
- Another time I can talk what the bible says about regular giving but do feel free to ask me about this if you like.
- If you are not sure about the subject of giving money then do not be afraid to talk to me or Martin. It is not a bad thing to talk about money.
- If you feel uncomfortable or unsure we would rather you did not give.
- Giving is to come out of a willing heart.

Tajikistan

- a. Today we have had a great opportunity to give money to help our friends as they go to Tajikistani.
- b. We can be partners with them as they go as the only Christians to a town of thousands.
- c. It is wonderful that we can be part of this in our prayers and in our prayers and by giving money.
- d. We are going love to bless them with a donation to their expenses as they go with the offering taken today.
- e. If you wish to give on a regular basis while they are away please speak to Paul Blecker.
- f. If you have not given today and would like to pray and think more then they will be here to talk in detail next week so you can then decide how much to give. Again Paul Blecker would be the man to see.