Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 35: Team work makes the Dream work

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 35. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a reflection. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

Moses introduces Exodus 35 with a reminder of Sabbath keeping. This is priority to the Lord. It would take a lot of work to build the Tabernacle and all the accessories to be included in it. God gave a new order of living for the nation of Israel that involved rest and refreshment, focused on God. This was a new way of thinking for the Israelites who had spent 430 years in captivity and under the oppression of Pharaoh’s heavy hand. There were no days off and their work was slave labor. With the Tabernacle, everything shifts. God invited them to partner with Him in work. And they would create something unique in all of history up to this time~ a sanctuary that will house God’s glory and presence.

Five times in this chapter the word “willing” is used. Willing means ready, eager or prepared to do something. These are the people God is looking for. He doesn’t force anyone to give or work. He sends out an invitation to the community of Israel. “*From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering*...” verse 5. The nation of Israel was inclined to give. The families brought more than enough to complete the project. In fact, in Exodus 36, Moses gave an order to stop giving! “*And so the people were restrained from bringing more...”* verse 6. Restrained from giving! This was a willing company of people.

God still approaches man this way. He will not force His way into any heart. He will not demand an offering from us. He looks for willing hearts. “*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*,” 2 Corinthians 9:7. We are to worship God with willing hearts.

Six times the word “skill” is used in Exodus 35. In verse 10, Moses sends out a word to the community, “*All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the Lord has commanded*”. There were many skills needed in building the Tabernacle to create this sanctuary of honor and glory. Everyone had a part to play. Men and women were all invited to this sacred work. Team work makes the dream work. This chapter reminds me of the time when a group of us in Omaha, Nebraska had a dream to build a house of prayer. We had found a building by a miraculous move of God but it had set empty for a few years. It was in need of a lot of TLC. I put out a call, like Moses did, to the ONEHOP (Omaha, NE House of Prayer) community and asked for willing hearts to give and to work. We had the community together painting and cleaning and repairing lights and changing floor coverings and building sound panels, putting together all the sound stuff, etc. There was something so sacred about doing it all together. This chapter stirs my heart to think I have a little understanding of their excitement about being part of something bigger.

There are a few points I want to highlight in this chapter as we close today.

1. The nation of Israel caught the vision from God-- God wanted to dwell among them. They understood the “why” behind the “what”. They were going to build a Tabernacle, that’s the “what”. But as Moses went up and down the mountain and received God’s heart, he was able to share with the nation (God’s treasured possession) the “why”. The reason to give and work was to have God in the midst of them!
2. Everyone is invited to participate, to bring their skill and bring their resource. This creates ownership and community.
3. Momentum. The Law of Inertia says “An object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion”. I feel this momentum build in this chapter. As people give, more give. As people work, more work. It’s the snowball effect!

I love this chapter! My heart is encouraged by the Israelites. It seems for once, they get it!

**Reflection**:

How do you worship God with a willing heart? Sabbath keeping? Cheerfully give? Talents/gifts/abilities?