

Giving Willingly to God

Exodus 35:4-29

A long time ago before the Lord Jesus was on earth, and a long time before Christians met together as the church, God had a special group of people called the Israelites. Moses was their leader.

One day Moses stood before the people with a message from God. The fathers and mothers and boys and girls were very quiet as they waited for Moses to speak.

“God wants us to build a place where we can worship Him,” Moses said. “It will stand in the center of our camp. It will be called the ‘tabernacle’.”

Moses must have explained to the people that the tabernacle would be like a tent. This way it could be taken apart when the people moved and be put back together when they stopped. The people understood this. They lived in tents. They were on a long journey to another land. They moved often. A tent would be perfect.

“This is the thing which God commanded,” said Moses. “We will need many things: gold, silver and brass; blue, purple and red cloth; fine linen cloth; animal skins; wood; precious stones; oil for lamps; and spices.”

“Oh,” thought the people, “how beautiful God’s tabernacle will be.”

“You are to bring all these things that are needed,” said Moses. “Everyone who wants to do so may bring gifts to build the tabernacle. BUT God wants gifts only from those who have willing hearts. God does not want your gift unless you are happy to give it.”

The fathers and mothers and boys and girls hurried back to their tents. Each person was thinking about what he could give to build this special tent for God.

Soon, from all over the camp, people were running to Moses. Each person carried a gift. Each one wanted to give his very best to build God’s tabernacle.

The Bible says in Exodus 35:29, everyone “brought a willing offering unto the LORD.”

Bible Verse to Learn

“God loveth a cheerful giver” (II Corinthians 9:7).