

Obedient Giving Part 2

Free-will Offering

Steve Berger March 13, 2016

Review

- Before beginning on today's study, you NEED to have seen/heard the FIRST message on March 6, 2016: Obedient Giving, Part 1: Tithing. It can be found in the media section on the Grace Chapel web site.

Freewill Offerings

- When God says "Will you?"
- "Over and above."

Throughout scripture, special events and needs arise.

An even deeper level of giving than tithes — an offering to God of your own free will.

Following are three examples of free-will offerings from scripture.

Building the tabernacle

- **Exodus 35:3-4**

And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying: 'Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze...' (6-19 tells exactly what).

- "offering"- voluntary, not mandatory... that's what makes it special

Interesting — although it is for a "building" and under "Moses" leadership, it is "to the Lord." We must remember that! This is personal, between us and God!

- **Exodus 35:20-22**

And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the Lord.

- "offering"- voluntary, not mandatory... that's what makes it special

*Interesting — 3 chapters earlier they were giving their gold for an idol and ascribing to it the credit for bringing them out of Egypt... now they've repented and are giving it to the true and living God! **Go back 3 chapters...***

- **Exodus 32:1-4**

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”

**We give our gold to so many things that aren't about God,
we should allow our hearts and spirits to be stirred
to give to the work of God!**

*Notice — if **false gods** were worthy of their **earrings**, then the **True and Living God** was worthy of their **earrings, nose rings, rings, necklaces, ALL jewelry of gold**! They figured that out as their hearts were stirred, then spirits became willing. So important!*

Heart-stirring continues

- **Exodus 35:26**

And all the women whose hearts stirred with wisdom spun yarn of goats' hair.

More heart-stirring going on** — when God points it out we need to pay attention... yes your heart could be stirred and yes it is God doing it... do what He says, **DON'T EXPLAIN IT AWAY!

More voluntary offering from a willing heart...

- **Exodus 35:29**

The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the Lord, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the Lord, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.

More — but really interesting

- **Exodus 36:2-7**

Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work. And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, and they spoke to Moses, saying, “The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded us to do.” So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, “Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.” And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done--indeed too much.

The peoples' stirred hearts caused them to be so abundantly generous that Moses had to tell them to stop bringing the offering... wouldn't that be awesome!

**There were abundantly more resources available
and given than what was needed...
the miracle is the people giving it!**

Accomplishment and blessing

- **Exodus 39:42-43**

According to all that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work. Then Moses looked over all the work, and indeed they had done it; as the Lord had commanded, just so they had done it. And Moses blessed them.

They did it, they did it, they did it and they were blessed because of it!

**Sometimes you just have to know
that it has been done before — and a blessing followed!**

Question — what motivated them to do it?

- **God** wanted it done but only from the willing.
- **realization of God's goodness and mercy toward them** while they were giving their gold for things that were of no "God value."

King David and the people giving for the Temple

- **1 Chronicles 29:2-3**

Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance. Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver:

He goes on to ask others who will join him...

- **1 Chronicles 29:5-6**

"Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?" Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly.

Question — What caused an "all my might, over and above, special treasure, consecrated, free will offering" to be given?

- **1 Chronicles 28:10**

Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.

**They were chosen for such a time as this, it was their job to do,
and it was going to take more than willing hearts and stirred spirits,
it was also going to take...**

...strength, consecration, affection for God's work; God and His work must seriously matter to you.

Result

- **1 Chronicles 29:9**

Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly.

**Great rejoicing comes from loyal, cheerful, consecrated,
special treasure, over and above, all your might, free will offerings...
may we experience that in weeks, months and years to come!**

Giving of King Hezekiah and the people after national repentance and revival

- **2 Chronicles 31:5-12**

As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the Lord their God they laid in heaps. In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month. And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and His people Israel. Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. And Azariah the chief priest, from the house of Zadok, answered him and said, "Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and have plenty left, for the Lord has blessed His people; and what is left is this great abundance." Now Hezekiah commanded them to prepare rooms in the house of the Lord, and they prepared them. Then they faithfully brought in the offerings, the tithes, and the dedicated things...

Question — What caused this “abundant first fruits, tithe of everything, free will offering?”

- **revival** — God sent His Spirit after years of disobedience, salvation came!
- **repentance** — their hearts getting right with God, making up for past disobedience.
- **realization**- “how can we not after all you have done for us?”

Result

- the people were blessed so much there was a great abundance left over, they needed to create store rooms for it.

God says...
"Grace Chapel, are you willing?
Will you make a heart-stirred,
 spirit-willing,
 all-your-might,
 over and above,
 special treasure,
 loyal,
 abundance of first fruits,
 tithe of everything,
 freewill offering,
that will cause my work to go forward
and your blessing to be poured out?"

Sacrificial Offering

Join us for a Sacrificial Offering
Grace Chapel Sanctuary
Good Friday, March 25th — 6:30 p.m.
Be in prayer to see how God might bless you through this night.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Exodus 32:1-4. What are our golden calves? Do we still try to give gold to both "god" and God?
2. Exodus 35:26 (NIV) "And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair."
Discuss: is there some way for every person in the church to become involved, and to give?
3. King David said, "I have set my affection on the house of my God." What would that mean in our lives today?
4. What is it that makes us reluctant to release that "financial piece" (piece/peace) — to trust that God will meet ALL of our needs?
5. "How can we not after all He has done for us?"