

AMBASSADORS
Sunday School Class

Exodus 36:2-19

June 14, 2026

Theme

- The talents and resources with which God has entrusted the believer are not to be stored away but displayed and used.
- Have your gifts ready and God will find you work that counts for eternity.

I. Review

- A. Sabbath 35:2 “For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy day, a sabbath of complete rest to the Lord;”
- B. Contributions 35:21 “Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the Lord’s contribution....”
- C. Craftsmanship 35:31 “And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship;”

I. Review

D. 36:1 This statement is a summary of Gods' endorsement

1. the requirement that all the actual builders must be gifted by God
2. everything must be accomplished strictly according to the revealed divine plan
3. [Fulfillment of 31:2–6]
4. God, as He does even today, had gifted and equipped each individual for the task He had required of them. (Romans 12:6; Eph 4:12)

I. Review

E. J. Calvin:

“This verbal repetition, then, reminds us how accurately the labor and art of men in the building corresponded with the command of God.”

II. The People's Reaction To The Call For Contributions (36:2–7)

A. 36:2–3 The project swung rapidly into motion.

1. (v. 2) He called the Israelites to serve Him willingly, with a glad heart
2. (v. 3) A process that saw Moses receiving the people's offerings and immediately passing them on
3. (v. 3) Note: every morning, regularly, systematically, a first thing priority

J. Calvin: “Here is set forth, first of all, the diligence and prudence both of Moses and the artificers, and secondly, their integrity. Their prudence is shewn in the distribution of the materials among them; their diligence in the quickness with which they commence the work, without waiting till they have enough for its completion; whilst they testify their extraordinary integrity when they voluntarily declare that enough has been given, and put a stop to the offerings, lest they should be more than they required.”

II. The People's Reaction To The Call For Contributions (36:2–7)

4. Demonstrates their repentance for prior disobedience (Golden Calf) and desire to obediently keep the covenant. (If not for just a short time)
 - a. J. Calvin: “Let us learn from hence, that the pious zeal, which existed in them for a short time, emanated from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; and further, that all our best feelings vanish, unless the gift of steadfastness be superadded.”
5. Today, as then, God calls all His children to be actively involved in His great work, and no job is more necessary than another for the final completion of the task (1 Cor 12:7ff). In the case of the tabernacle, if any function had not been done, the work itself would not have been finished.

II. The People's Reaction To The Call For Contributions (36:2–7)

B. 36:4–7 A stop is put to the people's contributions

1. (v. 4-5) All levels of contributions were more than enough
2. (vs 6) Moses was eventually required to insist rather forcefully, (restrained: to *restrict*, by act (*hold back* or *in*) or word (*prohibit*); Note also: it was sufficient
3. Note: There was no compulsion for God's people to provide the materials for the tabernacle—the Lord relied entirely on His people's generosity. Using our gifts for God's service and sharing from our material blessings should be a joy, not a grudging chore.

II. The People's Reaction To The Call For Contributions (36:2–7)

C. A difference in approaches (Here verses Aaron in Ex 32:2)

1. The whole nation was invited to contribute (35:4)
2. Contributions were entirely voluntary (35:5)
3. How well did this plan work? “*more than enough*”
4. The teaching of the tabernacle shows that grace is the best motivation for giving

II. The People's Reaction To The Call For Contributions (36:2-7)

5. This should be our response as well: giving generously and freely to God's work and to His people simply because we are grateful for all that He has given us.
(2Cor 8:1-9)
6. This only works if people's hearts are in the right place. The trouble is that so often our hearts are in the wrong place.
7. The most that we can offer is to give our lives back to him (Romans 12:1, preceding and following context), being obedient to His Word and using our spiritual and financial gifts to build his church.

III. Construction of the Tabernacle Proper (36:8–38)

- A. The actual construction begins here in Exodus 36:8
- B. Moses sometimes would repeat all the details and sometimes would not. **36:8–39:43** The report of the work done is repeated in the past tense
- C. John Calvin: “What follows represents, as by a lively image, as we have said, how faithfully they executed whatever God had prescribed, so as not to vary from it even in the smallest thread.”

III. Construction of the Tabernacle Proper (36:8–38)

- D. 36:8–13 the fine curtains: This paragraph duplicates in past tense fulfillment (“then they made ... they also made”) what 26:1–6 commanded in the imperative (“make, then make”)
- E. 36:14–19 The coarse curtains: This paragraph describes the fulfillment of what was commanded in 26:7–14 but shortens the description with summations at various points

IV. Striking Facts

A. Precious souls redeemed by Christ are the material of the New Testament Church

B. 1 Peter 2:1-5

1. (2:5a) The Privilege of Union with Christ “you also, as living stones,” To be living stones means that believers have the eternal life of Christ. They are united with Him, which is their first spiritual privilege. (Col. 3:3–4; cf. Gal. 2:20)

IV. Striking Facts

2. (2:5b) The Privilege of Access to God as Priests “being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood,” The writer of Hebrews further identifies the spiritual house in this fashion: “Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are” (Heb. 3:6)
 - So believers have access to God “as living stones,” and they commune with Him as His spiritual dwelling

IV. Striking Facts

3. (2:5c) Offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. God-honoring spiritual sacrifice begins when believers offer God all their human faculties, including their minds and every part of their bodies (Romans 6:13, 12:1)
 - That is the total commitment He requires of spiritual priests

IV. Striking Facts

C. “Believers’ spiritual privileges begin the moment the Holy Spirit draws them into a saving union with Jesus Christ. They then have access to the very presence of God as priests who are privileged to offer up a variety of spiritual sacrifices, which are really just the essential characteristics of the Christian life. One of the primary functions in the church’s mission to advance God’s kingdom is to stimulate its members to fulfill their priestly duties. That fulfillment, above any external representations, is the divine measure of the church’s success.”

Conclusion

V. Theme: The talents and resources with which God has entrusted the believer are not to be stored away but displayed and used. Have your gifts ready and God will find you work that counts for eternity.

VI. NEXT WEEK

A. June 21, 2026

B. Exodus 36:20-38