

Let the Journey Begin

a study in the book of Exodus

Giftings - Exodus 31:1-11

Lesson 21

The instructions given to Moses on Mount Sinai included more than the Ten Commandments. The verses in this lesson are some of the last instructions given. The LORD had given Moses detailed instructions regarding the tabernacle and its contents, the feasts, and the priests. God provided the instructions, the materials, and, in this lesson, He reveals His provision of abilities for those who would build the tabernacle and make its contents.

Read Exodus 31:1-11

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed and marked key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD*.

Key Words and markings: *LORD* and *have*
3. The verb *have* is used six times in verses 1-4. List the things God said He had done for those He gifted.

Read Exodus 31:1,2

1. The building of the tabernacle and its contents was a huge undertaking. The LORD had it all covered, even His selections of not only builders, but artisans. What did the LORD say about *Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah*?
2. As believers, we belong to the LORD and thus have purpose and value to Him. Bask in the following verses and next to each write what each declared truth means to you personally.

Exodus 33:17

Isaiah 43:1

Isaiah 45:4

3. Read John 10:3-15 and note some aspects of Jesus being your personal shepherd.
4. What might your reaction have been if you were Bezalel and Moses told you that God had chosen you as His instrument to do *artistic work* for Him?

Read Exodus 31:3-5, 7-11a

1. We do not know if Bezalel was naturally gifted in this area or not. Moses certainly knew God could use and equip a man whether they were naturally gifted or not. Using Exodus 3:11 and 4:10, write Moses' objections in your own words.
 - a. God's response to Moses' first objection was, *I will certainly be with you* (Exodus 3:12a). What assurance does God's presence give to you in times when you are overwhelmed by your inadequacies?

b. Using Exodus 4:11, record God's response to Moses' second objection.

1.) What assurance should this have given Moses?

c. How should experiencing God's enabling power in your life help you to come alongside others and encourage them to obey God's call upon them?

2. The LORD *filled Bezael with the Spirit of God*. Explain your understanding of the *filling of the Spirit of God*.

a. In what ways is this *filling* profitable and necessary for doing ANY work of the LORD?

b. What is the difference between doing something in our own wisdom and experience and doing it with the enabling of the Holy Spirit?

3. What specific abilities were given to Bezael?

a. Define the following words as they relate to building and designing:

wisdom

understanding

knowledge

4. Notice the first word of Exodus 31:4, *to*. Following this word reveals the purpose for the *filling of the Spirit of God*. Using verse 4,5, 7-11a list some of various projects.

5. In what ways does reading the descriptions of projects help you to view the need for the filling of the Holy Spirit in anything and everything God calls you to do?
 - a. Consider just one thing that you do that you might consider so ordinary that you can accomplish it without God's filling. How would approaching that task differ if you sought God's *wisdom, understanding, and knowledge* before you acted?

6. Choose one of Paul's prayers for believers in Ephesians 1:15-20, Philippians 1:9-11, and Colossians 1:9-11. What are your thoughts about the need for *wisdom, understanding, and knowledge* in the life of the believer?

Read Exodus 31:6

1. As you scanned through the lists of projects, you may have noticed the variety of giftings necessary. What are we told in verse 6?

2. Exodus 35:30-35 gives us additional information regarding God's calling on His artisans. What else did you discover?

3. These were extremely important projects. What components are necessary for these tasks to be completed well?
 - a. What can we learn from this and apply to projects or ministries we perform with other believers?

Read Exodus 31:11b

1. Ponder the importance of the last sentence of Exodus 31:11 as you write it below.

2. Throughout the recording of the execution of these projects we read the words, *as the LORD commanded Moses*. These *artisans* were creative people. Yet they designed and they built according to what Moses told them to do. What do you think that was like for them?

3. What conflicts can often occur when you are asked to do something by someone in authority and you disagree with their methods or plan?
 - a. What advice would you give to a new believer as to how to respond?

4. Each of the items listed in today's lesson had specific purposes, beyond the obvious. What could have happened if the *artisans* made them in a way that made sense to them, rather than in obedience to God's plan and instructions?
 - a. How can we personally apply this?

Read Romans 12:1-8

1. This passage reveals many aspects of God's gifting of believers. Read through these eight verses and record some thoughts that have encouraged or challenged you.

Review Exodus 31:1-11

1. What have you learned from this lesson about God's giftings?

2. In what way will you approach God's callings on you differently because of this lesson?

*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."
- Isaiah 6:8*

Observation Worksheet

Exodus 31:1-11 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, ⁴ to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, ⁵ in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. ⁶ And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all who are gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you: ⁷ the tabernacle of meeting, the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furniture of the tabernacle-- ⁸ the table and its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense, ⁹ the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base-- ¹⁰ the garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests, ¹¹ and the anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy place. According to all that I have commanded you they shall do."