

Message #61

Exodus 31:1-11

One of the things that really can become a problem, when people gather together for worship, is that some people want to do things that really they are not equipped to do. For example, it seems that there will always be someone who wants to sing a solo who does not have the skill to sing a solo.

Years ago, I heard a great Bible teacher tell of a time he was in a service and some dear saint got up to sing who could not sing. He said the thought that kept going through his mind is when is this going to be over. It did not enhance worship, it lowered it. Instead of the people being moved to exalt God, they were embarrassed. Now some people will say this person is making a “joyful noise” to the Lord. Well, the truth is it is not joyful, it is embarrassing.

Worship is not to be some free-for-all in which everyone just signs up to do anything. If we are going to do something for God, we had better know what we are doing and we had better purpose to be skilled at what we are doing. Nothing for God should ever be sloppy and none of us should ever think more highly of ourselves than we ought.

We ought to recognize our skills and abilities and then we should seek to use those skills and abilities for the glory of God. If we don't have the skill and ability, we need to seek to serve God in some other way. We need to know what we can do and what we cannot do.

As we have been going through this book of Exodus, we have seen all throughout the construction of this tabernacle that only the best materials were to be used. Nothing was to be cheaply designed or made. Whether it was metal or material, it was to be the best because it was for God.

What is very clear from this specific passage is that only the best craftsmen were to be used in the construction of the tabernacle. All people were important to worship, but not all people were skilled and gifted in the same way. What we see here is this:

GOD GIFTED AND APPOINTED CERTAIN CRAFTSMEN TO DESIGN AND BUILD WHAT GOD WANTED MOSES TO DESIGN AND BUILD.

This passage forces us to make an assumption. The assumption is that when God wants something accomplished or built, He will sovereignly see to it that the right people are in place to carry out the assignment. He will bring the right people at the right time to do the right work. That is clear from this text.

There are three key observations we want to make:

OBSERVATION #1 – God spoke directly to Moses. **31:1**

We have pointed out multiple times that nothing was done in this project without Moses. Moses was the key man of God. Moses was God’s choice to lead this nation even though Moses didn’t want the job.

Moses did not do all the work concerning this project, but everything about this project was connected to him. He was the key authority and he was the one responsible for the ultimate oversight of this project.

When the project of building this tabernacle was completed, all of the people of God could rejoice and share in the blessings and the contributions. But all of it was connected also to Moses. God chose him and decided to work with him to accomplish this task.

OBSERVATION #2 – God specifically singled out two key men to complete this project.
31:2-6a

There are two specific men that God mentions in this context:

Man #1 - God specifically names Bezalel. **31:2-5**

There are four key facts we learn about Bezalel:

(Fact #1) - We learn about his calling. **31:2a**

He was called by God. God specifically told Moses I have called this man by name to do this job. God can call people by name to do some amazing things physically. God does call people to do specific things for him. He does give people unique skills and abilities to accomplish His purposes.

I have heard of individuals whom God has called to various ministries and churches, who have done some incredible things. I know of a sanctuary that was being constructed and it was being constructed wrong. One man saw it, not only had the skills and abilities to spot the problem, but fix the problem. God sent that man to that place for that purpose. I know of a church in the west in which God saved a very prominent wealthy man. In the aftermath of God doing that, He led that man to pay for land and build a church on the land that is operating to this very day. No one asked this man for anything; God just laid it on his heart to do it.

That is apparently the kind of things God did with Bezalel. This was the specific man that God called to oversee this construction project. We must assume God gave him tremendous ability as a skilled builder.

(Fact #2) - We learn about his family. **31:2**

Bezalel was the son of Uri, the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah.

(Fact #3) - We learn about his filling. **31:3**

Now this filling is a special enablement that would cause one to be able to carry out the assignment. There are four specific areas of filling and different words used to describe what God supernaturally did:

Area #1 - God filled him with wisdom. **31:3a**

This particular word has to do with wisdom and intelligence that is given by God to one who fears and reverences Him. This refers to a very crafty ability to make very skilled judgments in a specific field (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 277-278). To gain this level of wisdom, one must be in a right relationship with God or God will not grant it.

Area #2 - God filled him with understanding. **31:3b**

This word refers to an intelligence that has great insight into something (*Ibid.*, p. 855).

Area #3 - God filled him with knowledge. **31:3c**

This word refers to actually intelligently knowing something versus speculating about something (*Ibid.*, p. 205).

Area #4 - God filled him with craftsmanship. **31:3d**

This refers to a very specific work of service that is specifically prescribed by God and enabled by God to accomplish the task (*Ibid.*, p. 475).

(Fact #4) - We learn about the results of the filling. **31:4-5**

There are three specific results of this filling of God:

Result #1 - He would be able to make artistic designs. **31:4**

Result #2 - He would be able to cut stones. **31:5a**

Result #3 - He would be able to carve wood. **31:5b**

This man was specifically given the ability by God to construct and build.

Man #2 - God specifically names Oholiab. **31:6-11**

There are two key facts we learn about Oholiab:

(Fact #1) - He had been appointed by God Himself. **31:6a**

We must assume from this that he was needed to help Bezalel.

(Fact #2) - He was the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. **31:6b**

OBSERVATION #3 – God specifically called all to accomplish the project. **31:6c-11**

Fact #1 - God put skill in the hearts of all skillful. **31:6d**

Fact #2 - God put the skill in their hearts to make all God commanded to be made. **31:6e-11**

Now we get a list of things that God gave people the skill to be able to construct. In order to do this in a way that was acceptable to God, they needed God to give them the skill. There are at least fourteen worship realities that needed to be in place in order to have acceptable worship. Each reality was important and without it, God would not accept it. Now in order for this to be in existence, God needed to give the skill necessary to build it.

(Reality #1) - God gave the skill to build the tent. **31:7a**

(Reality #2) - God gave the skill to build the ark. **31:7b**

(Reality #3) - God gave the skill to build the mercy seat. **31:7c**

(Reality #4) - God gave the skill to build all the furniture. **31:7d**

(Reality #5) - God gave the skill to build the table with its utensils. **31:8a**

(Reality #6) - God gave the skill to build the lampstand with its utensils. **31:8b**

(Reality #7) - God gave the skill to build the altar of incense. **31:8c**

(Reality #8) - God gave the skill to build the altar of burnt offering and its utensils. **31:9a**

(Reality #9) - God gave the skill to build the laver and its stand. **31:9b**

(Reality #10) - God gave the skill to make woven garments. **31:10a**

(Reality #11) - God gave the skill to make holy garments for Aaron. **31:10b**

(Reality #12) - God gave the skill to make the garments for Aaron's sons. **31:10c**

The purpose is so that they could carry out their ministry.

(Reality #13) - God gave the skill to make the anointing oil. **31:11a**

(Reality #14) - God gave the skill to make fragrant incense. **31:11b**

Notice in order to make "all that I have commanded you," God needed to provide the skill and ability to certain people in order for them to do it.

We have had many people walk through this new Sanctuary and say—it is so beautiful and so reverent and so God-honoring. Who do you think is behind these observations and conclusions? Who gave committees their abilities and skills? God. It is true that there are names to the people involved. It is true that God's people with real names were involved in various committees to accomplish the goal. God used those people.

This is a wonderful thing for us to know. God is able to grant us great wisdom and skill to accomplish His perfect will. No matter what He wants us to accomplish, He is able. So ask God to make you accomplish all that He wants you to accomplish.