

Title:     **THE HIGH HONOR**  
              **GOD PUTS UPON HIS PEOPLE**

Text:     Exodus

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Introduction:

Everybody wants to be a part of something big. Everyone wants to be a part of something great, important and significant. Tonight I want to show you some people who are a part of something great.

I have often told you that the highest honor we can or do give to the triune God, to the Lord Jehovah, our God and Savior is faith in him. Our faith in him is his gift to us; and our faith in Christ is our gift to him. Believing him, we honor him. And the Lord God has declared, “**Them that honor me I will honor**” (1 Samuel 2:30). Tonight, I want to

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show you honor God honors those who honor him by faith in Christ.

Open your Bibles to Exodus 35. The title of my message is — **THE HIGH HONOR GOD PUTS UPON HIS PEOPLE**. I want to show you from the Word of God what a great privilege and honor it is for God to allow such things as we are (fallen, depraved, fickle, unstable, sinful men and women) to perform his work in this world.

Because, at first glance, chapters 35-39 seem to be nothing more than a recapitulation of chapters 25-31, most of the commentaries have very little to say about these final chapters of Exodus, treating almost as though they were redundant. That is a great pity!

- Nothing written in the Book of God is redundant, merely repetitive or unnecessary!

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- At the very least, any repetitions given in Scripture are needful repetitions. None are redundant!

When sharpening your pocket knife, is it redundant to go over the whetstone many times? — No! The more strokes the better. And we are specifically told to teach the things of God with repetition (Deuteronomy 6:7; Philippians 3:1).

(Deuteronomy 6:7) “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

(Philippians 3:1) “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe.”

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Exodus 25-31 is a description of the Tabernacle as it was given directly to Moses by the Lord God himself. Chapters 35-39 record what was actually made according to the pattern shown to Moses. Typically, that fact alone is very significant because — that which was accomplished by God in his purpose of grace on sovereign predestination shall be performed by the sovereign power of God in time.

**BLESSED REST**

Exodus 35 is all about serving God. In the previous chapters we are told about the pattern God Gave Moses in the Mount. Here the work is actually begun; and it is begun with another declaration of God's command that the children of Israel must keep the sabbath (vv. 1-3).

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(Exodus 35:1-3) “And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These *are* the words which the LORD hath commanded, that *ye* should do them. (2) Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death. (3) Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.”

In this chapter, we see the children of Israel serving God with willing hearts. Here are God’s chosen people making sacrifices with joy and laboring with gladness; but the chapter begins with a commandment to keep the sabbath day holy.

So, the first thing evident in this chapter is the fact that **service begins with rest**. We

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cannot do anything for God until we quit trying to do something to appease God. We cannot serve the Lord until we rest in Christ, our blessed Sabbath Rest. We cannot bring anything to God until we find rest in Christ.

Remember, the Tabernacle was designed of God and given by God to portray and typify our Lord Jesus Christ and the full accomplishment of salvation by him and in him. So, before the work of erecting the Tabernacle is begun, the Lord God gives this commandment again. — “**Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.**” — Before we are fit to serve the holy Lord God, we must rest in Christ. Before we can bring anything to him, we must receive grace from him.

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**Now, watch this:** — This seventh and last mention of the sabbath in the Book of Exodus, the Book of Redemption and Deliverance. It was Solomon, “*a man of rest*” (1Chronicles 22) who alone could build a house to Jehovah’s name. Both the sabbath days of the Old Testament and Solomon, the man of rest, typified our Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Sabbath in whom and by whom we rest.

But in verse 3 an additional feature is here added to the observance of the sabbath. Even the lighting of a fire on the sabbath day is here prohibited! — “**Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.**” The Lord never mentioned that before.

Why is it added here? There may be other reasons for this additional requirement; but **I**

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**am sure that this is intended to show us at least these two things.**

- Faith in Christ is a complete cessation of works, a total dependence upon the Son of God for our entire salvation.
- Faith in Christ is the means by which God the Holy Spirit purges our consciences of guilt, and imputes to the believing sinner the righteousness of Christ, as he did to Abraham.

Now, having faith in the Son of God, trusting Christ alone as our Savior, resting in him, every believer calls the Sabbath a delight (Isaiah 58:13-14).

(Isaiah 58:13-14) “If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, *from* doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine



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own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words: (14) Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.”

**HONOR BESTOWED**

Next, in verses 4-19 we see the Lord God bestowing a great honor upon the children of Israel. He so highly honored them that he allowed every man and woman in the nation of Israel to have a hand in making the Tabernacle.

- Without question, God did not need Israel’s assistance!
- Everything the children of Israel brought to him, he had given them.
- Yet the Lord condescended to use the people he brought out of Egypt to establish

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his place of worship and all the things connected with his worship, while they were in the wilderness.

(Exodus 35:4-5) “And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This *is* the thing which the LORD commanded, saying, (5) Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever *is* of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD.”

(Exodus 35:10-12) “And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded; (11) The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets, (12) The ark, and the staves thereof, *with* the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering,”

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(Exodus 35:18-19) “The pins of the tabernacle, and the pins of the court, and their cords, (19) The cloths of service, to do service in the holy *place*, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest’s office.”

Great as that privilege was, high as that honor was, it pales into insignificance, when compared to the great, high honor and extraordinary privilege the Lord God has placed upon you and me, upon this assembly, and upon every believing sinner in this world. God almighty has chosen us as his witnesses and his servants in this world (Isaiah 43:10-12; 44:8; Acts 1:8; John 20:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:1).

(Isaiah 43:10-12) “Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I

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have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. (11) I, *even* I, *am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour. (12) I have declared, and have saved, and I have showed, when *there was* no strange *god* among you: therefore ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I *am* God.”

(Isaiah 44:8) “Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared *it?* ye *are* even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, *there is* no God; I know not *any.*”

(Acts 1:8) “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and

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in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

(John 20:20-21) “And when he had so said, he showed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. (21) Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21) “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (18) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us

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the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. (21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

(2 Corinthians 6:1) "We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."

**THE PEOPLE AND THEIR GIFTS**

Now, look at the people God uses and the gifts they bring to him, by which he is honored and served (vv. 20-29). But, before looking at these verses, let's apply the passage as personally as possible. Look around you, and behold the people God uses to build his kingdom in this world, the people

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God uses to spread the gospel to the four corners of the earth, the people God uses to call out his elect in every generation (1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2 Corinthians 4:7).

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31) “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*: (27) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (28) And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: (29) That no flesh should glory in his presence. (30) But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (31)

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That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

(2 Corinthians 4:7) “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

Who are the people God uses to honor himself? Who were those people he used to make the Tabernacle?

- They were a **chosen**, covenant people. — “*All the congregation of the children of Israel*” (v. 20).
- **The offering they brought** was “*the LORD’S offering*” (v. 21). — That which the Lord had given them. — That which really was the Lord’s. — That which they acknowledged to be the Lord’s.
- **Both men and women, rich and poor, the rulers and the laborers** worked for and brought their offering to the Lord, each



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serving with what God gave them and in the capacity God designated to them (vv. 22-25).

(Exodus 35:22-28) “And they came, both **men and women, as many** as were **willing hearted**, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered *offered* an offering of gold unto the LORD. (23) And **every man**, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats’ *hair*, and red skins of rams, and badgers’ skins, brought *them*. (24) **Every one** that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the Lord’s offering: and **every man**, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought *it*. (25) And **all the women** that were **wise hearted** did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had

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spun, *both* of blue, and of purple, *and* of scarlet, and of fine linen. (26) And all the women **whose heart stirred them** up in wisdom spun goats' *hair*. (27) And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate; (28) And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense."

**The offerings were the offerings of willing hearts.** That is the only and the only service offering God will ever accept, that which arises from and is performed by a willing heart. — "**If there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not**" (2 Corinthians 8:12).

(Exodus 25:1-2) "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (2) Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an

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offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.”

The materials out of which the Tabernacle was made were to be provided by the voluntary offerings of devoted hearts. — *“And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing...And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man offered an offering of gold unto the LORD”* (vv. 21-22). Spontaneously, freely, joyfully they availed themselves of their great honor and high privilege.

**Everything offered to God must proceed from hearts made willing by His Spirit.** It must be spontaneous and free, not the result

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of persuasion or of external pressure, but from the heart. It must be given, not taken.

- Constrained by love, not by law!
- Motivated by gratitude, not by fear.
- Inspired by reverence, not by reward.

Nothing is more certain to ruin any work, any missionary enterprise, any ministry, any church than the employment of carnal, fleshly, worldly schemes to raise money. Nothing more dishonors God and his people than the many ways churches, preachers and religious organizations try to get their money!

- Tithing
- Pledges
- Debutation
- Bake Sales
- Begging

**Moses simply told the people that the Lord God almighty, who brought them out of**

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**Egypt and destroyed all their enemies, God their Savior and Redeemer, was willing to receive a gift from them.** He did not tell them what to bring, how much to bring, or even command them to bring. He simply said, God is willing to receive your gifts.

- Each one brought what he had in his possession (blue, silver, gold, shittim wood, etc.).
- Each one brought only as much as he wanted to bring, no more and no less than his own heart dictated.
- And there was more than sufficient, “*much more than enough*,” to finish the work (Exodus 36:5-7). —

**If the God of Glory calls us to do a work, the God of Glory will supply everything needed to do the work.** God’s servant don’t beg! And God’s people are not mercenaries. We serve our God and do whatever it is that

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the Lord God allows us to do for his glory, because we want to do it. — “*The love of Christ constraineth us!*”

**BEZALEEL AND AHOLIAB**

The Lord willing, I will come back to verses 30-35 in a few weeks and show you how Bezaleel and Aholiab typify our blessed Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who builds his church. But let me briefly show you that these two men also represent those men who are called and gifted of God to lead his people in building his house. Bezaleel and Aholiab clearly represent faithful pastores, gospel preachers, appointed of God as overseers in his house.

(Exodus 35:30-35) “And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of

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Judah; (31) And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; (32) And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, (33) And in the cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. (34) And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, *both* he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. (35) Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, *even* of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.”

- They are divinely called (v. 30).

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- They are filled with the Spirit of God (v. 31).
- They are gifted of God with wisdom, understanding and knowledge to perform the work to which they are called (v. 31).
- They are “*cunning (skillful) workman*” (v. 35).

Little did Bezaleel or Aholiab know that while they were making bricks in Egypt, under the lash of cruel taskmasters, the God of Glory was preparing them to be skilled artisans by whose hands he would erect the Tabernacle in the wilderness for the glory of his name and the everlasting good of his people!

Amen.