

## *GeneroUS: Willing*

*Exodus 35:4-5; 20-22; Exodus 36:3-7*

### Points

- 1. Finances are a mess.
- 2. Drowning in debt
- 3. Lack of trust.
- Generosity is good for your soul.
- 4. Fear.
- It is okay to be afraid; it is not okay to stay afraid.
- 1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
- Exodus 35:4-9 -<sup>4</sup> Moses said to the whole Israelite community, "This is what the LORD has commanded: <sup>5</sup> From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze; <sup>6</sup> blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; <sup>7</sup> ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather<sup>[a]</sup>; acacia wood; <sup>8</sup> olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; <sup>9</sup> and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.
- <sup>5</sup> From what you have...
- Take an offering for the LORD...
- Everyone who is willing...
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- Not everyone has the same to give, but everyone has something to give.
- Exodus 35:20-22 - <sup>20</sup> Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, <sup>21</sup> and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. <sup>22</sup> All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.
- Exodus 33:4 - <sup>4</sup> When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments.
- Exodus 33:14 - The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
- Gratitude grows generosity.
- Exodus 36:3b-7 - And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. <sup>4</sup> So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done."<sup>6</sup> Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: "No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more, <sup>7</sup> because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.
- Am I willing to be generous?
- Do you trust God to take care of you?
- The more generous you are, the more you are like Jesus.
- Lord, what do I need to do to be generous?

## Discussion Questions

**Starter:** When you hear the phrase “Big Prayer” what comes to mind?

### **Go Deeper**

1. Read Exodus 33:4-9
2. What do you think went through the Children of Israel’s minds when they heard this command from Moses?
3. Think about the language here. God gives us a command, but obedience is for those who are willing. What does that say to you about God’s commands and our response?
4. In your opinion, what is the equivalent in our time of offering God not just gold or silver, but other valuables?
5. Read Exodus 33:20-22
6. Notice the people move quickly to bring their offering. In your experience is it better to obey your first impulse to be generous or to wait and think about it? Which shows more trust?
7. Read Exodus 34:2-7
8. The people’s generosity is guided by their gratitude. In your opinion, what would help people be more grateful? What would motivate someone to be generous?