

The Effective Life

Exodus 35:30-36:2

10/ 19/ 08

Intro

As we continue our study through the book of Exodus, Moses has come down from Mount Sinai the second time holding the tablets of stone which contained the law of God. The reason Moses went up to the mountain the second time was because he smashed the stone tablets on the rocks when he had come down from the mountain the first time and found the people worshipping a golden calf.

God then told the people of Israel to get up and go to the land that he had promised their forefathers, and because Moses interceded in behalf of Israel God even promised that his presence would go with them.

But before they can go there was yet one more thing that needed to be done, they needed to construct the tabernacle where God promised that his glory would dwell as powerful evidence of his presence among them. God gave Moses detailed instructions about how the tabernacle was to be built. What is amazing is that every aspect of the tabernacle is a shadow of the throne of God in heaven itself and of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who makes a relationship with the eternal God possible.

In the verses we are studying today, God called out the men that he desired to use in the craftsmanship of the tabernacle. And there are powerful insights for us as well in these verses because here we discover the insights into living an effective life.

I. You Have a Calling on Your Life

- 1 God specifically called out Bezalel and Oholiab by name for the purpose to which he had called them.
- 2 Does God call us as well? Absolutely.

A. God calls you to salvation and beyond

- What does the word calling mean? Literally, it means to call out someone's name to get their attention.
- It also means to call to something. In other words, there is a reason your name is being called. These men had a purpose that God wanted them to fulfill and so he called them by name.
- God calls us to accept His provision for our eternal life and wants us to accept His calling.

Matthew 22:1-10 The parable of the wedding feast.

- But he also has purposes that he calls us to as well. There are many examples of

this in scripture.

Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

- Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus that God even prepared beforehand that we should do what he called us to do.

Ephesians 2:10, For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

B. God empowers his purpose

- God promised to fill Bezalel with the Spirit of God so that he could do what he was called to do.

App – Once of the principles we have come to see in scripture is that where God guides He provides. We are reminded of this almost every year at the pastor’s conferences.

- It’s important to clarify that there is a difference between the ways the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of the people in the Old Testament compared to believers in Christ Jesus today.
- In the Old Testament the Spirit of God was given to only those whom God had chosen for a particular purpose, maybe only 100 people or so, and was given until the purpose was complete.
- For example, in Psalm 51, David asked God not to take the Holy Spirit from him, although he had sinned terribly.

Psalm 51:11, “Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me.”

- But every New Testament believer is given the Holy Spirit as a pledge of eternal life.

Romans 8:9, However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Ephesians 1:13-14, In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of

promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

- The Spirit of God is given also that we might receive power for God's purpose.

Acts 1:8, but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

- The Spirit of God also brings the character of God into the heart of those who believe.

Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

C. Do something to give God glory

- There appear to be two different ways that God works in our lives in giving and using our gifts for His glory.
- It's very clear in scripture that God gives spiritual gifts to the church that we might use those gifts for His glory and the good of His church.

1 Corinthians 12:7, But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

- 1 God also gives specific gifts for specific tasks as he wills.

1 Corinthians 12:11, But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:28, And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

- 2 So there are gifts that the Holy Spirit gives that a person did not have before he received the Holy Spirit that God wants to use for His glory and for the edification of the church.
- 3 But the Holy Spirit can also take the gifts that He gave you from before you received salvation and use them for His glory and purposes in your life.

Illus – Sometimes when we someone does something amazing we will even say, “He is very

gifted,” or to that person, “You have a gift.”

4 I believe that is what God was speaking of when he said...

Exodus 31:6, “...and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you.”

Illus – God is the greatest artist of all and every artist is simply made in God’s image. One of the great classical composers is J.S. Bach who wrote, *Soli Deo Gloria* at the end of every composition.

5 Some might say, “I don’t have anything special about me that God can use.”

App – can you hold a baby? God can use you in the nursery. God can use you in the children’s ministry, in swinging a hammer, in tile work, cleaning, cooking, and so much more and it’s all to worship and serve the Lord.

Romans 12:1, Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

1)

II. God Will Make You Effective

- 1 God said that He would fill these men with the Spirit of God... in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge and in craftsmanship.
- 2 In other words, God would make them effective.

A. Make yourself available

- 1 God called Bezalel and Oholiab and they came. In other words, they made themselves available.
- 2 God gives the ability, whether by special gifting, or by anointing the gifts you were born with, but we must make ourselves available.

3) Illus – I’m available to be a professional golfer, I just don’t have the ability. I was once given the blessing of golfing with Bob Gilder, a Christian pro golfer and he gave me a very wise piece of advice, “Don’t quit your day job.”

- 1 The problem for most people is not ability, because God has placed much ability in our lives, but we don’t make ourselves available.
- 2 Perhaps this is because people see doing something for God as an inconvenience

rather than an opportunity to honor God with their lives.

- 3 What God desires is for us to have a willing heart. God told Moses that people should give because their hearts were stirred within them.

Exodus 35:21, Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the Lord's contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments.

Exodus 36:2, Then Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every skillful person in whom the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him, to come to the work to perform it.

- 2 The same is true in our hearts and lives as well.

2 Corinthians 9:7, Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- 3 God wants us to have a willing heart, a willing mouth, a willing character...

B. Stay in God's shadow

- 1 This actually comes from the meaning of Bezalel, his name means, "In the shadow of God."
- 2 This is actually a very important principle that we need to understand. God makes us effective, but he empowers what glorifies Him.

7) **Illus – When I was in my early 20's and in the restaurant business, I suggested once that we should pray and ask God's help. The person I said that to responded, "God helps those who help themselves. Isn't that in the bible somewhere?"**

8) **Actually, that isn't in the bible. What is in the bible is this...**

9) **James 2:3-4, You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

- 4 But it is certainly important to be diligent in all that we do. We are called to be faithful in our serving and do what we do with all our hearts.

- 5 The strength that we add is certainly nothing compared to the strength that God adds to accomplishing what He desires, but we are asked to give our all as a demonstration of what is in our hearts!!

1 Peter 4:10-11, As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it

were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 1:29, For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.