

## A Worthy Offering: Exodus 25:1–8

God delivered Israel out of bondage in Egypt through miraculous plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, and constant provision in the desert. At Mount Sinai, the story shifts from dramatic rescue to intimate relationship. God does not merely want to direct His people from afar; He desires to take up residence right in their midst. In this passage, God invites the community to construct a sacred sanctuary, beginning with an appeal for a specific kind of offering.

### Getting Started

- Think of a gift you received that felt truly thoughtful or costly (not necessarily in dollar value, but in effort, sacrifice, or love). What made that gift stand out to you?

### Hearing the Word

*Read Exodus 25:1–8 aloud together.*

#### Exodus 25:1–8 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. <sup>3</sup>These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; <sup>4</sup>blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; <sup>5</sup>ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; <sup>6</sup>olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; <sup>7</sup>and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

<sup>8</sup>“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”

### Investigating the Text

- In verse 2, what condition does God place on whose offering Moses is allowed to receive? Why do you think God emphasizes this boundary right from the start?
- Skim the list of requested materials in verses 3–7. What impressions do you get about the quality, expense, and variety of these items?
- Considering that Israel had spent centuries as impoverished slaves in Egypt, where would they have obtained precious metals, royal dyes, and jewels while traveling in the Sinai wilderness (see Exodus 3:21–22; 12:35–36)?
- What does the origin of these treasures teach us about the true ownership of the gifts the Israelites were presenting to God?
- According to verse 8, what was the ultimate purpose of gathering these costly materials? How is building a sanctuary for God different from merely financing a communal building?

project?

### Connecting and Understanding

- Read **2 Corinthians 9:7**. How does Paul's instruction to the early church echo the language and spirit of Exodus 25:2?
- Many people give out of guilt, duty, social expectation, or tax incentives. In contrast, what should be the primary gospel motivation behind Christian generosity?
- Look at **John 1:14** and **1 Corinthians 6:19–20**. How does the physical Tabernacle point forward to both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit's presence in the Church today?

### Applying the Word

- Look honestly at your giving habits today. What tends to trigger a "hard heart" or reluctance in you when presented with opportunities to give (e.g., scarcity mindset, loss of control, lack of planning)?
- What is the difference between giving God your *first and best* versus giving Him your *leftovers* when it comes to:
  - Your financial resources?
  - Your daily time and energy?
- The sermon outline highlighted five practical areas or "pockets" of church giving: *General Operations*, *Facilities/Building*, *Designated Projects*, *Benevolence*, and *Missions/Evangelism*. Which of these areas has God uniquely laid on your heart right now?
- In modern banking, giving is frequently reduced to an automated debit, which can strip away personal devotion. What is one practical step you can take this week to make your giving an intentional act of worship (e.g., praying over bank transfers, giving systematically off the top, or intentionally partnering with a specific missionary)?

### In Prayer

Spend a few moments thanking God that He did not hold back His best, but gave His one and only Son to dwell among us and redeem us. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften any resistance in your heart, free you from a spirit of scarcity, and cultivate cheerful, intentional generosity that honors His presence in your life and local church.