

Sunday, July 16, 2023 Dr. Nathan Neufang

GIVE, OBEY, ENJOY How the Tabernacle teaches us about Christ and godly living EXODUS 25-27, 35-40

Passage in a Sentence: As the people of God, we should give generously, obey God's commands, and enjoy God's presence.

- I. AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD, WE SHOULD GIVE GENEROUSLY.
 - a. Every person was asked to give. (25:2)
 - People gave their treasures. (35:4-9)
 - People gave their talents. (35:10-19)
 - b. Every person stirred by God was faithful to give. (35:20-29)
 - c. The people were faithful to complete the task. (36:1-7)
 - d. The provisions used for Israel's generosity came from God. (Exodus 12:35-36)

II. AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD, WE SHOULD OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS.

- a. God gave specific commands for building the Tabernacle and everything inside and around it. (25:9).
 - God commanded the people to make an ark. (25:10; 37:1-5)
 - God commanded the people to make a mercy seat. (25:17; 37:6-9)
 - God commanded the people to make a table. (25:23; 37:10-16)
 - God commanded the people to make a lampstand. (25:31; 37:17-24)
 - God commanded the people to make the Tabernacle. (26:1; 36:8-38)
 - God commanded the people to make an altar. (27:1; 38:1-7)
 - God commanded the people to make the court of the Tabernacle. (27:9; 38:9-20)
- God doesn't need our creativity when it comes to His commands. He desires our faithfulness.
 (31:1-11)

III. AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD, WE SHOULD ENJOY GOD'S PRESENCE.

- a. There are several purposes of the Tabernacle:
 - It was to remind Israel of the presence of God. (25:8)
 - It was to remind Israel that their God is Holy, and they should be set apart.
 - It was to remind Israel of what was lost because of sin, but also what we can anticipate because of our merciful God.
 - It was to remind Israel about the cost to commune with God.
- b. Look to Christ, who is the fulfillment of these things.
 - Christ is the better ark representing the holiness and presence of God.
 - Christ is the better mercy seat where His blood was shed for our forgiveness.
 - Christ is the better curtain who opens access to the Father.
 - Christ is the better table where He is the Bread of Life.
 - Christ is the better lampstand who is the Light of the World and illuminates the things of God to humanity.
 - Christ is the better tabernacle because He is the means to meet with God.
 - Christ is the better altar where His sacrifice gave us access to Himself.
- c. Whereas the Tabernacle was God's chosen way to dwell among men in the wilderness, God chose to send Christ into the world so that we could dwell with God forever. (John 1:14)
- d. The Tabernacle was temporary, but because of Christ, we have rest in the presence of God forever. (Hebrews 9)