

Immerse Blog Day 37 :: Mar. 23

There is a very intriguing word in today's reading that I believe tells us a lot about our own discipleship. It is found at the top of page 141. Do you see it? It's the word, "eager".

This passage is not just about obedience; it's about stewardship. The reality is that everything we have comes from and still belongs to God. We are simply holding it for Him until His return. And, according to various parables of Jesus, God will return and see what we've done with His stuff. In fact, my favorite definition of Stewardship is simply, "God's people using God's stuff to accomplish God's will."

As the people set out to build the Tabernacle, the very first, completely mobile temple, they are commanded by Moses to use God's stuff which He has entrusted to them, but only if they are willing. "Let those with generous hearts present the following gifts to the LORD..." And sure enough, "All whose hearts were stirred and whose spirits were moved came and brought their sacred offerings to the Lord." This was not a test to see who was good and who was bad. There was no punishment for withholding God's stuff from the temple artisans. What God sought was willing, even eager, people who would give His stuff for His plan.

And it was not only "stuff" they gave. Sure, they donated gold and wood and cloth and food, but they also gave their skills. Weavers, builders, bakers, embroiderers, carpenters, metal workers... all gave of their abilities for God's plan. With the sheer scope of this plan, it's a good thing there were probably over 3 million people to pitch in!

But not only that. Perhaps the most clear example of Stewardship was a man named Bezalel. Though not as famous as Moses, David, or even Samson, Bezalel was one of the more important figures in biblical history. He is the first person in the bible to be described as being filled with the holy spirit. While today all who have committed to following Jesus are filled with the Spirit, in the OT, the Spirit came upon someone for a specific task at a specific time, and then left them when the task was complete or when they abandoned God. Bezalel was given the Spirit to gift him to design and build the Tabernacle, and therefore the Temple that Jesus replaced with Himself. Think of the ways, seen and unseen, that the temple was influenced by this man's ideas and skill, and how that in turn affected everyone who worshipped at the Temple for millennia to come. But Bezalel had a choice. He could have rejected God's call and His Spirit, or just not allowed the Spirit to use him. He could have refused to steward God's gift of His Spirit. Good thing he didn't!

What do you have? If you were to list on paper everything you have, everything God has given you, where would you start? Your house(s), car(s), boat(s), investments, bank accounts, furniture, tools, food, appliances, toys... but also your skills, abilities, experience, experiences, hobbies... but also your relationships with your friends, family, coworkers, fellow students, neighbors, colleagues... and also the gift of God's Spirit in you.

What are you using God's stuff for in your life? Go back over this short list in the last paragraph and think about how you're using each of these things. Which ones are you using for God's Master Plan? Are there some you're using for yourself in stead of God? Are there some you're not using at all, but letting lie unused in your life?

"Eager" is an important word when it comes to stewardship. God wants those of us who are eager to give to do just that: give. Of our stuff, our abilities, our relationships, and the gifts of God's Spirit within us. And if we are not eager to give? That is certainly something to reflect with God about.