

Well, if you have your Bibles this morning, in a few moments, we are going to turn back to the book of Exodus, specifically Exodus chapter 36. You can go ahead and turn there; we will get there in a few minutes. But I want to take some time this morning to talk to you about what happened last week and try to bring everybody up to speed on where we are.

I. The Camp's Impact and Eternal Investment

Camps are one of the most unique endeavors that you ever try to do. They are unique when you have to put them together. They are even more unique when you have to preach at one. I am going to preach a message today that I preached at camp Wednesday night that broke the camp. There was nothing left to be done after Wednesday night as far as spiritual decisions went. Everybody that got saved got saved that night, and everybody that needed to get right with God in whatever capacity that was came forward that night. The place was packed with the altar; nobody sitting out there except the counselors, and most of them were working with their kids.

So I thought this week, if there is one message I wanted to get across to you, our church, and to the parents that are here today, it is what I tried to do and what we tried to accomplish. Camps are a very finicky balance. Most guys, they do not even understand the balance to begin with. They will go in on a Monday night and they will try to get everybody they can throughout the week and just work it every night that way. That is not a very good way to do it.

I took a couple of nights just to set them up. I knew what was going to happen during the day. You guys were going to do a great job with that. So I knew time was on my side. It was not like I had one shot at them where I had to get everything done. I knew that time was on my side. I knew that I could work them.

On a Monday night, I talked about 1 Timothy chapter 4. I talked about the three things that Paul told young Timothy: read the Book, preach the Book, and know the Book. And I really focused on that. The next night I came back and I talked about David and Goliath. And I talked about putting it in a format that David was a young kid just like they were. And he had to go up against a giant that was standing against God's people and God's nation. And so I took that aspect and I talked about how they are going to have to face some giants in their life. When they walk out of that camp, they are going to be smack up against a Goliath. So I walked them through that. And of course, the last night you were there, I basically preached God looking for a man just to send them off and give them a challenge.

But Wednesday night was my main focus. That is what I wanted to get across to them. Our theme this week was missions and being a missionary, and the concept of being a missionary. And we got that all squared away because most people today have the wrong idea about a missionary. They think it is somebody to Africa or somewhere foreign land. And of course, we worked that through. They understand now that if you are saved, you are a missionary. God has called you and God has given you a mission.

And I told them—and this is what I want to begin to help you understand today—that as far as understanding God's mission, as far as being a missionary, and understanding your life in that aspect, it will only depend on one thing that you understand, get, and put into your life. It will not be about what Bible you have, though that is very important. It will not be about how much you know about that Bible, though that is going to come into play at some point. But your ability to be God's man and God's woman to accomplish the mission that God has given you is going to come down to one single aspect: your understanding. This is what I told them: your understanding of investing in eternal things—your life's investment in the eternal things of God.

Years ago, an old preacher told me, and boy, it was so true, and I never forgot it. He told me that there are only two things worth investing your life into as a Christian. Only two things worth investing your life into as a Christian. One of them is the Word of God; the other one is the souls of men. Because if you stop and think about it, those are the only two things that are going to last for eternity. The Word of God liveth and abideth for ever, and the Bible says that man's soul is going to eternally be in one state or the other: either Heaven or Hell.

II. Seeing from God's Standpoint

We go through life investing our lives in everything else except those two things, and we wonder why our lives are not complete. We wonder why our lives are in turmoil so many times. And I told these kids, "For you to fulfill the mission of God, we can do everything we are going to do this week"—and boy, they did. They had some great illustrations, a great missionary, everything that they did. But it all comes down to one thing when you leave that camp. Are you going to commit yourselves to invest your life in the eternal things of God?

That does not mean you do not have fun with life. That does not mean you do not play ball. It does not mean you do not do this. It means that your prime focus is going to be the investment in the only two things that are going to last for all of eternity.

2 Corinthians 4:18

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

You have to begin to look at things in this life and see them from God's standpoint. You have to not look at them in the physical sense, but look beyond that and see it in the eternal sense. What difference is this going to make in eternity? Some of God's people get hung up on some stupid thing, and it lasts for 20, 30 years of their life, and it consumes them in everything that they do. I always ask myself the question before I let my emotions or whatever get involved in something. I always ask myself, "How is this going to play out in eternity? Is it going to matter?" And if it does not matter in eternity, it certainly is not going to matter to me.

Because the only things that matter today, as I told your kids—and I want you to understand this, folks, so you can feel it easier—I am not preaching to you today. If you are a mom or a dad here, do not take this message to heart at all. I am just telling you what I told your kids. So I am not preaching at you today. Now, if some of it hits the ceiling and falls down on your head, that is

okay, too. But I just want you to know, sit back and relax; nobody is preaching to you today. I am just telling you what I told your kids. But if it gets on you, that is okay, too. You can do that.

I told them about Romans chapter 4, the great story of Abraham. Abraham is such an incredible picture of your life and my life. Abraham's journey through life mirrors all of our journeys through life, certainly your kids'. He starts out, unable to trust God for anything. And he winds up trusting God with the very most precious thing that he loves: his own son. When God called him out of Ur of the Chaldees back there in the early part of Genesis, God said, "Forsake everything, just go yourself and your immediate family." He had to take a lot with him. He could not trust God for anything. That is where we all were at some point in our life. But as he goes through his life, he learns through the process of life, what things are eternal and what things are physical.

God took him out one night and showed him the stars in Heaven. He said, "Someday your seed is going to be like the stars of Heaven." That is eternal. And at that point, the Bible says that is when Abraham believed God, and God counted it to him for righteousness. That is when he got saved. And his life was never the same. He wound up not being able to trust God with anything and wound up trusting God with his very son in Genesis 22, and wears the title of only two men who wear it all through the Bible: the friend of God.

Do you want to be God's friend? Do you want to be the friend of God? Do you want to be the friend that God looks for? I will tell you how you get there. I told your kids this the other night: invest your life in eternal things. Look at the things that are going to last for all of eternity.

Romans 4:17

As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Being able to see what nobody else sees, being able to understand that God has a mission for you, and through the scope of the Word of God, realize what that mission is and see it when nobody else does. Sometimes people will laugh at you when God has given you a burden to do something. Sometimes they will ridicule you. Sometimes they will not even believe you. When does it not matter? As long as you and God agree on it, and you know what God wants you to do, and it is based on the Bible, that is what you do. You see the world, you see people, you see circumstances from God's standpoint. You see all of the things of life from an eternal perspective, not a physical perspective anymore. A missionary is a man or a woman with a mission: the investment of your life in the eternal things of God.

III. The Post-Camp Challenge and the Church's Mission

Now, having said that, I took your kids to the best place I know in the Bible to illustrate what I want to say, and that is Exodus 36:1-7. I want to read it for you here and then we will make some comments on it. AJ, since you gave your arm for camp, would you stand up and ask God's blessing on the sermon today?

Dear Lord, I just pray that You give God the Word to say. Just let us all be open and ready to accept that. And if you were a camper this year, Lord, just let us rethink about it, rethink about what we heard and learned. And if you were a counselor or a parent, Lord, just think about it also and have a recent benefit from that. Amen.

I had to ask you, do you have—you are color coordinated with your little—do you have different colors of these arm things? I mean, if you had a red shirt, do you have a red arm thing? "Oh no, this is just what they gave me." They just gave you a black one? "Yeah." Well, there is somebody in the bookstore, we sell different color ones. I just want you to know that. You can get one back there.

What do we do now? The kids all got right last week. Everybody is on fire. A lot of them got saved. A lot of them right now would charge Hell with a squirt gun that did not have any water in it. What do we do right now?

Now, we have some young preachers here. I want to show you how I manipulated this. He prayed. I made a funny thing over here about his arm. Then I started to walk back. You all were relaxed, and I took right into you and said, "What are we going to do now?" See how that works? That was impressive. I was impressed with it, and I did it. That is the art of being able to misdirect and bring people's attention to one single fact. And the fact is, what are we going to do now?

What are you parents going to do now? You got your kids to the place right now where they are almost problem-free. I said "almost." You got your kids to the place right now where, honestly, the rest of their life, they now are in a place where if we work together, they have the ability to be everything God wants them to be. You can cancel out drugs. You can cancel out booze. You can cancel out marrying the wrong woman or the wrong guy. You can cancel all that out if we decide where we are going today. There is a value in getting your kids away from the world for one week. Isolating them from everything that distracts them and then having them focus on the Word of God. I wish while we were doing that we would have a parents' camp. There we would really have something going.

Well, what are we going to do now? Look at Exodus 36. Let me read this. We will answer that question as we go through this.

Exodus 36:1-7

Then wrought Bezalel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded.

And Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it:

And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning.

And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made;

And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make.

And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.

For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

Now that is a great passage. This is a story about Moses and the children of Israel and the mission that God had for them. I showed your kids the other night that God had a mission for Israel. That mission was Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, they built a temple. And all the world—you see it throughout the Bible—all the world was to come into Jerusalem to worship God and find God at that temple. That was their mission. The devil found them at every opposition, brought every opposition into life, and he finally stopped them. But the mission for the nation of Israel was to get a city whose builder and maker was God, build a temple unto that God, and then let all the world come and see the glory of God in that temple. That was the mission of the Old Testament, canceled temporarily.

Now you and I in the church have a mission. You have a mission. We talked about it. What is that mission? It is just the opposite. Where in the Old Testament they had a physical temple that was the building of God where He resided, in the New Testament the Bible says what?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price:

You see, in the Old Testament, there was a fixed temple that was literal, that the whole world came to. That was their mission. The mission for you and for me is not a fixed temple. The mission for you and for me is that your body is the temple. And where in the Old Testament the whole world came to the temple, in the New Testament, we take our temple to the world and show them the glorious things of God. That is the difference. And I told them that and I showed them. This is why you have to begin to invest in eternal things. It is just that simple.

IV. Three Principles for God's Work (Exodus 36:1)

Now let's look at verse 1 here.

Exodus 36:1

Then wrought Bezalel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the LORD put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the LORD had commanded.

And I told them the other night, and as today, there are three things I want to see in this verse very quickly.

1. Wise-hearted men who had wisdom and understanding from God.

I want you to realize that God is not going to just use anybody. You are not going to get saved and God is going to come down and say, "Okay, come on, let's go." It is very clear in the verse that God was only interested in men and women—men and women who had the wisdom and understanding, who had been prepared by God to do the mission of God. He was not interested in just coming down and grabbing anybody out of the crowd. It says, "wise hearted men in whom the Lord put wisdom and understanding to know how all the manner of work."

Our next job with your kids is to prepare them for that task. Camp was just the beginning. I guarantee you, if we do not do something today, if we do not get something enacted today, your kids will be right back in the world in three weeks from now, and you will lose everything that you have right now. And if you do not understand that great truth, I feel sorry for you, but I am going to tell you something: the devil is right outside that door, and the last thing that he wants is your child to invest their life in eternal things. I guarantee you. But he has a lot of things he wants them to invest their life in. We are up against a race against time here. Camp was a good thing, but camp was not over on Thursday night. Now we have to decide where we are going to go from here. And mom and dad, all my counselors and I, and everybody else was on board back then last week. Now the question is, are you on board?

Zach can put together, as he always does, some fantastic things for the youth group. He is always looking for ways to develop them, always looking for better things to do for the work of the ministry.

2. To know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary.

I told them the other night that when I was in the Army back in the late 60s, I was with a group that was divided up into different teams: A teams and B teams. And we were a group of guys that could be dropped in anywhere, and ten of us could take care of 500, maybe a thousand people, to train them and get them ready as a little army in indigenous country to be able to do whatever needed to be done. But everybody in our team, the A team and the B team, everybody had an MOS. Everybody had a specific task. They had a heavy weapons guy, a light weapons guy, a communication guy, a medic guy. Everybody had their job; that was their specific job. But everybody else in there was cross-trained in somebody else's job. That way, if one guy went down, somebody else could do it. My MOS was light weapons and radio. If the radio guy went down, I could do the radio. If I went down, the other guy could do the light weapons. Everybody not only had their primary focus, but they were cross-trained.

That is what Christianity needs. You need to be able to disciple somebody. You need to be able to teach somebody the Bible. You need to be able to lead singing up here like Zach did. You need to be able to preach. You need to be able to lead somebody to Christ. You have to be cross-trained in every aspect of Christianity. Because as a missionary, when you are on a mission that God has

called you to do, He will drop you in a place where you have never been before and just see what you can do.

The majority of the men and women in this church, if not all of them, I trust with my life. I trust them with my life. I trust that God, I can put them in any scenario. I have trained them. We have sweated together. We have worked together. We have spent countless hours in the Bible together. I have watched you in tough situations. I have watched you deal with people. I know what you are capable of. And I would feel comfortable putting you in any scenario, anywhere, and walk away knowing that you are going to handle it right. You have been cross-trained. You know what you are doing.

Down at Fort Bragg, they have an 82nd Airborne Division, which is a battalion of a rapid deployment group that in 24 hours can be anywhere in the world in any situation. They also have three Ranger battalions that will do the same thing. In 24 hours or less, anywhere in the world, they can parachute in, drop in, and do the job that needs to be done. That is what Christianity needs. That is what your child needs to be. They need to be trained. They need to be ready to go. They need to understand that God is just not going to get out after camp last week and say, "All right, come on, let's go out and do the mission." You have to be trained. We have to provide that training for you. We have to realize that we have to get you ready for all manner of work in the ministry.

If I got sick next week and could not show up to church, I have 30 guys here that could preach in my place. If I could not do Bible study Thursday night, I have 20 or 30 guys and gals that could step in and do the job. Why? You have been cross-trained. You know every aspect of this ministry. You are like the guy that became the CEO of some great multi-million dollar company, and it is so good and it works like clockwork. Somebody says, "Why?" And somebody else says, "Because the CEO, the guy that runs it all, 25 or 30 years ago, started as a janitor and worked his way up." He learned every facet from the inside. When you come in here, kids, we teach you every facet of this ministry from the inside up. Your moms and dads have done it. That is why they are so invaluable to this church and to this ministry. And now you need to be able to do that. We need to begin to take you after last week, when you are hot and ready to go, and start to teach you all manner of the aspects of the ministry.

I know I train your heart. I know I expect a lot out of you. But you are going into a warfare that is not kids playing marbles. You are going into a warfare that is going to come after you, and you better be tough enough to make the grade and stand. Be able to do all the work of the mission that God has given you. You do not want to get into this thing and then put your tail between your legs and say, "I cannot do it." So we train you. Sunday morning, this is a training session. Thursday night will be a training session. The singles ministry is a training session. The people ministry is a training session. The restart and the street ministry, and everything that we do, our Alpha teams, our kids, and our adults going up to Lincoln.

3. According to all that the Lord hath commanded.

And I laid this out for them: if you are going to do the mission of God, if you are going to be what God wants you to be, it says there, "according to all that the Lord had

commanded," you are going to have to do it God's way and not your way. You are going to have to decide that God's way is the right way and change about you and me. When I got into the ministry, I had a lot of great, good ideas. I really did. None of them were any good. And God gave me the ability not to have an attitude of pride where I saw what did not work. I was smart enough to adjust what did work. I have seen guys fail in the ministry because they think when they go into the ministry, they have to reinvent the wheel of the ministry. There is no reinventing the wheel of ministry. God worked in the 1800s, and the 1700s, and the 1600s, and the 1900s, and He will work today. The Bible and the Gospel and the ministry do not change with society. Society can change all it wants. The truth of God's Word stands fast where it is.

You have to do it God's way. The Bible says you and I are likened to somebody that is in a race. We are up against a race against time. I understand that. And we are up against a race against time. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:5 that if you are in this race, you have to run the race lawfully. You cannot say to yourself, "I am the exception to the rule." That gets you killed every time. You make a mess not only of your life, but of a hundred people's lives that you are connected to.

I told them that growing up to be God's missionary is a process that you grow into. They left Thursday night with the concept of wanting to do it in their heart. Now it is up to us to get them everything that they need. Parents providing the training and the vision for them, the models. Our church supporting the parents and teaching them, and the parents as they train up their young men and the young ladies that God has given them. The mission in the Old Testament, as in the New Testament, was simply teams of family reaching the world. One in the Old Testament sense, and one in the New Testament sense. But it is the same concept: families ministering together. That was His plan for the Old Testament. That is His plan for the New Testament. And I told your kids the other night that they are part of that team. They need to respect their mom and dad. They need to obey their mom and dad. You may not always be right, but you are always the parent. And when a kid respects his parents and obeys them, and a parent realizes they made a mistake, then they work it out. That builds the relationship together. But it has to be a common bond. It has to be an understanding.

V. The Stirring of the Heart (Exodus 36:2)

Now look at verse 2.

Exodus 36:2

And Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it:

Now I told your kids this the other night: you will never do anything for God unless you keep your heart in a place where somebody can stir it up all the time. We are the most lackadaisical, lazy people on the planet as God's people. Before we were saved, we were not as lazy. Once we got saved, we became very lazy. We have a tendency as God's people not to want to do anything.

That is because we are saved now. We are on our way to Heaven. You kick back and you go on a vacation you never return from.

And I told your kids the other night, the thing that is going to keep you where you need to be and keep your heart's attitude where it needs to be, is the same thing that keeps your mom and dad in this church on fire doing the work of the ministry. Somebody stirring up your heart. Do not let yourself get complacent. And man, am I a great stirrer! Somebody who will not let you just be lackadaisical and just slide by. Someone that will hold you accountable to the truth. Somebody that will preach the truth to you. Somebody that will absolutely take a stand on that Book and the Word of God, so that you know what you have to do. You may not do it, but you know you need to.

We have a lot of good cooks here. I think we have—I do not mean this in a bad way, ladies—but I think we have guys here that are better cooks sometimes than some of the ladies are. I do not mean that in a bad way; we all work together. But I know we have some great guys that can cook in here. I mean, when we have our Halloween party, everybody is dying for Norbert's chili. And Steve makes good chili. I have seen those guys take deer meat and cut it up, put it in there. You could not tell. You thought you would eat it at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. It was so good. It is really good. I do not like deer meat. You guys are good.

And I told the kids that night, when you make a pot of chili or really anything—chicken noodle soup, it does not matter—you put all the ingredients in a pan. And if you really want a good pot of chili, you put it on the stove, you turn it on to the right degree, and then you get it going. It starts to warm up a little bit, and then it starts to move in the pan, and then it is bubbling. And at that point in time, when it is really beginning to, all the ingredients come together, there is now time for something that has to take place that will make that chili the best chili on the planet. And if you do not do it, it will not be any good.

You have to stir it. You have to get a wooden stick or a spoon and you stir it. You know, the one you beat your kids with. You have to stir it. And you do not just stir it once. You go over here and it starts to stick on the sides, so you stir it again. And then it starts to boil a little bit, and then it starts to cake on the sides again. You stir it again. And when you are done with that and take it off, you have the best pot of chili you ever had in your life. And it is not only because of the fact that you put all the right ingredients in. We put all the right ingredients in last week at camp. And now from this point on, we have to keep it stirred up. We have to keep the challenge before them. If you want great Christian kids like you want a great bowl of chili, the recipe is the same: put the right ingredients in and then stir it up. Keep it stirred. Stir their heart up. They got their heart stirred last week. I praise the Lord for it. But that will be gone in three weeks if you lose your wooden spoon. And I am not talking about the one you beat them with; keep that one handy.

They have to be stirred up. Kids, after they left camp, this week was so important: the stirring of those young hearts. I watched it. I watched it every night. I watched it build. I watched it get to Wednesday night, and I knew it was just going to fall apart and explode. I have been in so many of these camps for the last 47 years. I know how they go. I watched it build, and I knew exactly when to strike. And then I watched the stirring of God as I gave an invitation for people to get

saved. No music, no nothing. I just stood there and laid it on the line to them, and everybody that needed to get saved came down to the front.

I sent them off. And then I had three things that I told them were going to happen last week. I told them, first of all, some people were going to get saved. The second thing I said was going to happen to some of the kids who were saved but had one foot in the world and one foot in church: they were going to get their life right. And then I said, the third group of guys and gals who were doing what needed to be done, just needed their batteries charged. And I told them, I reminded them all week, Wednesday night I went for the jugular vein. I knew that was the night. And I said, "Okay, just like this, everybody looking at me, no head bowed, no 'just as I am without one plea, oh dear God, come and get me.' None of that stuff."

I stood up there and I looked at them and I said, "Okay, I have been honest with you. I have told you the truth. I have laid the truth out to you. Do you want to be God's man or God's woman or not? Okay, right now, if you need to be saved, who will be first?" Boy, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, down the front. Then I just swept them out, gave them to the counselors. Now I had everybody else on my own. Everybody else was gone. So I said, "Okay, number two, you are here tonight and you have one foot in the world and you have one foot in church. And you cannot do the mission of God that way. Right now, man to man, woman to man"—I almost said woman to woman, that would not work very well—"right now, step out and come down and let's do business with God."

I was expecting 20 or 30 people and to get the rest of them. Everybody got up. The whole camp came down and they got on their knees around that pulpit where I was, and I looked back out there and there was not anybody left. Nobody confused number two and number three as one, and they came down. And we knelt down there and I challenged them. I told them. I laid out what they needed to do, and then we all held hands and we prayed together, and I prayed to God that He would give them the desire and the stirring of their heart to be everything as God's missionary. And Thursday night when you finally showed up—the parents and many of you came—instead of Bible study, it was just a hallelujah night. There was no invitation. Nothing else needed to be done. God broke the camp on Wednesday night, and God did business with everybody. And now it is time to take that bowl of chili and keep it being stirred.

VI. The Freewill Offering of Self (Exodus 36:3-5)

Look at verse three.

Exodus 36:3

And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning.

Now most pastors use this passage to talk about the giving of money. And that is okay. I understand that. If that is what you want to do, it will work that way. But I want to tell you

something: the greatest offering you can ever freely give God will not be the money you drop in a plate. It will be your heart, your mind, your soul, and your body to do the work of God.

I told them last week, years ago, when I was just their age, a missionary from Africa had come to the Canton Baptist Temple where I was going to church. He was a great preacher. And he was laying out the burden. I met some great missionaries who were doing the job right. I met one man who was a missionary to India who came to the United States to try to raise money for the Institute of Teaching the Guys. And the church that I was with, the Canton Baptist Temple at that time, they had a guest place, like many churches did back then, where if a preacher came in and a missionary came in, they could stay. It was beautiful, better than any hotel room you ever had.

And I remember that the ladies that cleaned the rooms came over to the pastor the next morning. And she said, "I think there is something wrong with Brother So-and-So. He did not sleep in his bed last night. And I do not know if he is not well or what. Is there something wrong?" And the pastor, Harold Henniger, met the missionary that morning and he said, "Brother," he said, "was something wrong? The lady said that you did not sleep in your bed last night." And he looked at him and he said, "Brother Harold," he said, "back home in India, my Bible Institute with the 20 or 30 young men that I have, not one of them had a bed to sleep in. And I will not sleep in a bed for myself until my people back home have a bed to sleep in."

And that is missing in missions today. Most missionaries, they want the most luxurious things they can have. They want the mattresses you set the number on, and I am in 666. That was a rough night last night. That is missing today. And I heard this guy tell the story that they had a church, but they had no building. And the people so desired to have a building, and they wanted to have one. And so they gave a service that people would bring whatever they could bring. Some of them brought chicken, and some of them brought whatever livestock they had. Someone brought corn to sell or whatever. There were actually people taking off their wedding rings and putting them in the offering plate because they wanted to have a church building.

He said there was one little gal, and this really moved your kids last week. One of the little girls that got saved when they were winning a Christ, they asked her if she understood everything. And she said, "Yes, I did." And she looked up and she said, "I just want to be that girl in that story that I told." And they had this little girl that did not have anything to give. And they laid the offering plates down, and they were getting ready to pray, and this little girl got out of the congregation and walked up and stepped into their offering plate. And she says, "I do not have anything, but I am going to give myself." Kids, you need to step into that offering plate. You do not have any money to give right now. You do not have anything of any value or possessions right now, but you have the greatest thing you could ever give God freely, and that is you. And you step into that plate and you simply say, "Here I am, Lord, take me and use me." I am telling you, we had some people step into that plate last week, and I think some of them are going to stay there. I really do. It is a freewill choice: your body offered freely to give God all that He wants.

Every morning, it says in the verse, "And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning." Every morning you get up, you redefine yourself. Every morning you reestablish

yourself. Every morning you redefine your goals. Every morning when you get up, you rededicate yourself that day to God. "This is what I am going to do." Do not let a day pass. Every morning you are rededicating yourself as a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

He says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, which is your reasonable service." It always struck me as funny that to God, your body and my body being a living sacrifice is reasonable after what He has done for us. But for so many of God's people, that request is unreasonable in the face of what He did for us.

VII. The Abundance of Giving and "The Right Stuff" (Exodus 36:5-7)

Now you see what a sermon like this does for you. I can see it in your faces. Some of you come in here this morning, you are not exactly where you need to be. I am not saying you are not a good person. I think you are all lovely people, but God is doing His work right now in your heart. He is stirring them up. He is stirring it up. I see it. I do not see anybody after going, "Oh, yep, there was a guy in the back. I am sorry, I did not just have my number." I do not see anybody. Everybody is sitting here, everybody is enjoying it, but God is doing His work today because when you come to a preaching service, you come to get preached to. And you come to get preached to for one thing—I am not saying you will not learn some things, you get some notes in your Bible. That is Thursday night. You did some stuff today. You will get the outline down. But the single greatest thing about a preacher with a message burning in his heart for his people will be stirring up your heart.

You need to be stirred this morning. I need to be stirred this morning. And you have to—it does not do you any good just to get stirred one time and go out, because like your chili, you will stick to the side of the pan. You have to keep that stirring up in your heart coming. You have to get it Sunday morning, Thursday night. You have to get it in your own personal time. And the Word of God, once you get to that point in your life, you will learn how to do it. You have to let God stir you, move you. You have to see things.

Some of you people who sponsored kids to come to camp, you saw them stand up here today. And that was not all of them because some of them are not here today, but you saw them come down there. They had to stir your heart to know that you gave of your money to send some kid to camp to get him there. And he got saved because of what you did. That is the story of it.

I think back in my day, I heard Mel preach a message one time, Mel Sabaka, my father in the Lord. And it was a tender time. And he talked about a young man whose name was David

LeBeau. David LeBeau was killed in Vietnam. And David was a machine gunner. And he wrote Mel a letter about three or four days before he got killed. And he wrote Mel, and he thanked Mel for all that he had done for him. And he said, "I thank you for telling me about the Lord. And I thank you for all that you did for me." He said, "It is really hard over here. It is really tough. I am doing the best I can. I am witnessing to everybody, and I just want you to know I love you and thank you for all you did for me."

Mel read a letter that morning. And he said, two days later, they said, "Let's move out." And David and everybody stepped out over the thing. They got hit by a sniper's bullet, hit him in the heart, and sent him out into eternity. David did not have a mom and dad. He lived with his aunt. He came to church with his aunt, and he was sitting here, and they were getting ready to go to camp. And Mel, he never missed it. Old Mel saw David LeBeau down there and went down and put his arm around him and says, "Hey David, are you going to camp?" David looked up and he said, "No, no, I do not. We do not have any money. I cannot go to camp." Mel says, "You are going to go to camp. Do you want to go to camp?" "Oh, I would love to go to camp!" "You are going to camp." Put his arm around David, got him everything he needed to go to camp. And the third night of camp, Dr. Ruckman was preaching, and old David LeBeau came down that thing, trusted Christ as his own personal Savior.

To this day, nobody knows who sponsored that kid. But I want to tell you something: that kid is in Heaven tonight because somebody cared enough to take him someplace that God could stir his heart. And when he got saved at 14 or 15 years old, he had no idea that five or six years later he would be in a rice paddy in Vietnam someplace, hit by a sniper's bullet that sent him out into eternity. See kids, you do not know where all this is going in your life. But what you do know is what you have right now. And right now God wants to stir your heart. Moms and dads, you need to have your heart stirred this morning. I will help you any way I can. I will do whatever I can do for you. We have the greatest commodity of this church and your life sitting in here today, and that is your kids. And the devil wants them worse than you do. He wants to take them and destroy their lives and destroy their world and do everything for them, put all kinds of things in their bodies, and do all kinds of things that will just ruin them for life. And God wants to take them because He has a mission for them. And God wants to reach down in their hearts like He did last week and stir them. But their stirring will depend on, from this point on, your stirring. It is just that simple. It is just that simple.

Look at verses 5, 6, and 7.

Exodus 36:5-7

And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make.

And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.

For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

Your growth in the ministry and fulfilling the mission of God will be in direct proportion to the giving of yourself to the ministry of God. It really will. Verse 5 said, "The people bring much more than enough." I used as an example last week, when it comes to Christianity, for you and for me, giving 100% of ourselves is not enough. What kind of percentage do you think that Jesus gave of Himself when He died for us on the cross? I am telling you. You see, we all take fact. He became my sacrifice on the cross and died for me so you and I could live for Him. He never asked me to die on the cross or anything. Now some of us may die in death because of what we believe, but He never asked that for all of us. He died for us so we could live for Him. He died, became my dead sacrifice, and I might become His living sacrifice. A guy said one time, "I die for Christ." It is a lot harder to live for Him than it is to die for Him. Anybody can die for Him. How about living for Him? How about living for Him? And when you see and you understand all that and how it works, you realize that 100% is just never enough.

I guarantee you the counselors that worked last week, and the staff, they gave more than 100% of their time. I will tell you something else. There are men and women in this church that all week long, they are discipling people, they are working with people, they are counseling with people. They do a full-time job. They come home and then they invest four or five hours away from their family working in somebody's life. They give, and then they do everything else. They give, they give, they give more than 100%. But that is what it takes: simply going above and beyond what God called you to do because He did for me. And then you have some of God's people that will not do anything. Their careers, "Well, my life, my this, my that." Okay, where would we be today if that is the attitude that Jesus had instead of going to the cross?

Verse 6 says, "We have enough!" Wow! What we could do if God's people would get their hearts stirred by God for the work that He has called us to. Would it not be great if we said, "We do not need any more help here, we do not need any more here, we do not need any more here. We have enough!" You get everybody in one spot in our church, almost every week there are 30, 40, 50 people going somewhere, which is fine, that is just life in itself. It is just every church is that way. But if we got everybody here, we probably are close to having 280, 300 people. Out of that 300 or 280, whatever it is, there are probably maybe 160, 170 that really haul the mail. Everybody else is along for the ride. Good people, love them to death. What could we get done if everybody that was saved gave over 100% of what they were doing?

That is what God intended. He intended the world in the Old Testament and the world in the New Testament to be reached by families that generation after generation after generation just kept turning out kids that loved God, loved the Word of God, and worked in ministry as a team together. But the devil stepped in. Last week, right now, I do not care where you are at, mom and dad, that can be fixed just like that. You are an adult, you can do it. But right now, your kids are at the best spot they are ever going to be in their life. And God gave us this year. If you do not do it this year, we may not get a chance next year. You have right now. This is what you have. This is what you have. And we are here to help you. I am here to help you. It is just that simple. The next generation.

Look at verse 7.

Exodus 36:7

For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

The stuff. The stuff, I love that word. I told your kids, none of them even knew this movie. They did me. Remember the movie *The Right Stuff*? How many saw that movie? Put your hand up. I need some help here because look, keep it up, keep it up. Now look around at the people who never saw the movie: all younger people. Your goal, your first goal, is to get a bunch of people together, go rent the movie *The Right Stuff*, and watch it. And give me a report.

He says, "We have all the stuff we need." Back in, I think it was probably done in the early 70s, there was a movie called *The Right Stuff*. It was a movie about the first seven Mercury astronauts that went into space. And it was based on a time in the 60s where we were in a race with Russia to get the first rocket in space—Russia beat us there—to get the first man in space—we beat them there. And then it talked about picking seven guys. And I asked them that night if anybody knew who the first American was that we sent into space. And one person knew who it was. And everybody thought it was John Glenn because he was most famous. It was not John Glenn, it was Alan Shepard. And they are all dead now. One kid was really smart and he says, "Well, the first person up there was not a man, it was a monkey." He was right. He had me on that; it was a monkey, it was a chimpanzee. I think he is now pastoring a church someplace down south someplace.

The movie was about seven and what they had to go through to go into outer space. And I am going to tell you, outer space is the most unforgiving environment you will ever be in. Absolute zero gravity, absolute zero oxygen, absolute zero temperature. You rip your space suit and you inflate and blow up and implode like a blender. Your blood boils, your eyes pop out, and in an instant you just implode. It is the most unforgiving, foreboding environment. And now we are going to send these people up there in a rocket ship that has five million moving parts paid for by the lowest bidder. Scary. And a government job on top of it. And it showed how the rockets they sent out, they went off the launchpad and exploded. They went off and they could not get a rocket off anywhere. And they had all these guys that were training. They put them through some of the most rigorous training that you ever saw: being weightless, and maybe being stranded in space and dying in space. Every one of them was willing to take whatever risk it was to walk through the door of the entrance to outer space. And I watched that movie and I thought to myself, "They had the right stuff."

And you are going into a forbidding world that wants to destroy you just like outer space does. The world finds one rip in your spirituality, they will implode you in a heartbeat. They want to take everything from you. You are going into the most hostile environment just like they did physically. You are going in spiritually, and where they had to be trained physically, you have to be trained spiritually, but it is going to take the right stuff. And I believe you have it. I have watched you come along, you preached there that day, that week. I will tell you what, I was never more proud of you. Now, I remember when you walked in here, you did not know anything. You were so dumb, you did not even suspect anything. And I love you. I am proud of you. I watch you guys. I watch you guys get up there and lay that out and watch you work with

those kids and watch you do everything. There is a lot of right stuff in this room this morning. And now God has given one of the greatest weeks of camp we could ever have, and God has given us a host of young men and ladies who I believe have the right stuff. But we have to get them trained to face the rigors of the world just like the Mercury astronauts had to be trained to face the rigors of outer space. And it is going to take the right stuff on our part and on their part. It is just that simple, just that simple. Every issue, every problem, every disaster that you have to face will be to keep you from the mission that God has for you, and you will need the right stuff.

This last week, we prepared you to be God's missionary when you go back to school in a couple weeks, to the friends that you are friends with who are probably lost, to the neighborhood, or some of you who have jobs, building the right relationship with your parents, maintaining that relationship as the base of operations, and working through a team concept. You begin to make the right choices, the right investments in the things that are eternal—the Word of God and the souls of men—and letting God develop you into being God's missionary.

I told them last week three things would happen, and it was true. Some of them got saved, a lot of them did. Some of them were already saved but needed to rededicate their life; everybody else did. There was not one person in that camp that did not make the right choice for the Lord last week. I have never seen that, probably, in all the camps I have ever been in, all my 47 years in camping. I am older than 47; I just started late in life.

When the people wanted to get saved, mom and dad, I did the right thing. I talked about salvation, what it really meant. It was not about because your friends were doing it; I wanted to give your kids the best shot. I told them it was not about what their friends were doing or what they were doing, but it was because they had to understand they had a personal sin debt to God that had to be eradicated through the blood of Jesus Christ. Then I talked about repentance because that is so foreign today. Everybody just gets saved and goes around their own way and then wonders why they fall back and forth. Kids, repentance means that when you get saved, you are going to quit going the way of the world and you are going to start going the way of the Lord. Repentance just means you turn another direction. We laid it all out. We laid it all out.

And then the last night, many of you were there. I told you that we are not just done with it now. The second Saturday of every month. The next one, the first one, will be August 12th, just a couple of days from now. Here at the church at 11 o'clock, we are going to stay in all of our cabins or our little groups, and we are going to have a youth leadership training format where we take your young men and your young ladies. You bring them, we will have lunch for them, we will sit down, and we will begin the process of building in their life the next level, the next step. We will help the parents. I will do whatever I can do for you. I will get you whatever material you need. I will sit down and talk with you to any length. I will put people in your world to help you, disciple you, do whatever you need to do.

We cannot lose in our children what God did last week. We may not get another shot at it. By the time next time, Ecclesiastes 12:1 says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come" when that kid says in his heart, "I want nothing to do with God." We may not have it next year. This may be your last shot, and right now your child, your kid, is in

the best spiritual position they could ever be that we can build on. But it is up to you. It is up to them. I know what I want. I know what we want. We want to be here for you. We want that kid to have the best shot they can to be everything God saved them for.

So I preach this message to you today that I preached to camp because this is the one that broke the camp. And I hope it is the one today that will re-stir the hearts of these kids and re-stir the hearts of moms and dads. They will say, "I am going to get on board and make sure my kid gets everything that they need." Hey mom and dad, I know you are good parents. You provide everything for your kids. You make sure they have enough food. You make sure they have a place to live. You make sure the lights stay on. You make sure that they get what they need. They have nice clothes. You take care of them. You are phenomenal parents. Now let's step up to the next thing and let's all together take care of their spiritual needs. Amen. Let's be them what they need to be, and I will help you. My phone—you can call me anytime, any place, anywhere. I will do whatever it needs to be done to help you. We made an investment in your kids last week, and that was an investment in the eternal thing because it was their souls. Now I am asking all of this: let's continue that investment. Kids, moms and dads, my people, let's take what God has given us and let's not lose one child because of the fact that we did not do our part.

So we start on August 12th. You get all the information. Our counselors will be in contact with them. If they need a ride here, just let us know. We will pick them up. We will come and get them. We will do everything we know how to do to get them where they need to be so we can keep that stirring of their hearts going, and part of it will help you. We will reinforce the good values that you have already put into their lives, and we will be there for you in any way, shape, or form. Let's pray.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus, and we do love You. We thank You for the great host of folks that have come out today and for the great Word of God that You provided for us in the great week last week of all the labor and love of people in this church that are put out for these kids. We pray, Father, Your blessings upon all of it. Help these parents to know and understand that we are here for them. Lord, without them, the kids will never make it. We want to be here for them. We want to encourage them. We want to help them. I do not care where they have been, what they have done, or whatever they are into. It does not matter. All we care about is those kids and getting ourselves to the point where we give these kids in this hostile environment the right stuff to get everything done for God that needs to be done. Bless it, Lord. Use it. Give us a good rest of the day. Let our hearts be stirred today as we think about these great things with these great kids that You have given us. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.