

Lenten Devotional 2020

Tuesday, April 7, 2020
Day 36, Exodus 36

Fulfillment

Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: "No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work. (Exodus 36:6-7)

A lot of us, especially in churches, have a scarcity mentality. We believe that we may not have enough for what we need. I first came across the above quote when I was working in fundraising. As a person new to fundraising, I was convinced that resources were scarce. Everyone I spoke to assured me on that point. But, then, I read those words: Moses actually had to stop the Israelites from bringing more because the craftsmen already had too much.

Note the pattern as well: God gives the materials, God gives the design, the resources are collected, the collection is stopped, and the project is completed to God's exact specifications. As I said in an earlier post, I am convinced that God has given us everything we need to participate in his mission that he has called us to. So, if we are finding resources scarce, we may not actually be focused on God's mission. Too many churches have made their own existence and survival their mission. What we need to do is to seek God for a mission for our church today.

Marva Dawn once said that she was convinced that the problem for the church fulfilling its mission today wasn't not enough resources, but too much. We have invested so much in ourselves that we then have to protect it and hang onto it. Perhaps that is why God begins his people being so portable, so they wouldn't get too rooted.

Wouldn't it be great to say we have more than we need? Then seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Prayer

Lord, you have given us all things as children of God and coheirs with Christ. Change our mentality from not enough to abundance. Shift our focus from our buildings and butts and bucks, to your world and the good news of the kingdom. Amen.