

# Lenten Devotional 2020

Thursday, April 9, 2020  
Day 38, Exodus 38

## **No Gift Too Small**

*These are the amounts of the materials used for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the covenant law, which were recorded at Moses' command by the Levites under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron, the priest. (Exodus 38:21)*

As I read through this chapter, I was impressed by the important role that bronze plays in the building of the Tabernacle and the making of the utensils. Isn't it great that God doesn't require gold alone? It reminded me of the story in John 6:1–14. This is the story of Jesus feeding the multitude with five loaves and two fishes. In John's gospel this is the lunch that belongs to a little boy. How many Sunday school lessons have we heard of that boy offering his small offering as a worthy thing for us to do?

I don't know if he offered or not. John is not making the Sunday school point—the lad is only mentioned in passing reference. But, it certainly does make the point that God can make lesser things into greater things. Everything the Israelites had—including linen, wood, and lesser metals—was an acceptable offering to God and used to make something greater. So, yes, even our small gifts and offerings of efforts or money or love are acceptable to God.

However, there may be a deeper realization. We are lesser things. In 2 Corinthians 4:7 Paul says, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." We are the clay jars. We are the lesser vessels that have been made greater by the love and presence of God in us. We are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ. We cannot boast about ourselves—we are lesser. But, we can boast in God—he has seen us fit to indwell. Our call is not simply to offer any small gift, but to offer our whole selves to Christ as offering. Or, as Paul says in Romans 12 as living sacrifices.

## **Prayer**

Lord God, you have received us just as we are and you have put your treasure into clay jars. Thank you for taking what is lesser and making us greater. Let our whole lives be an offering to you. Amen.