

**Men's Sunday Night**  
**A Study in The Book of Exodus**  
**Lesson 15 – 33:7-40:1-38**  
**The Glory of The Lord**

The tent described in verses 7–11 is not the tabernacle, for the tabernacle had not yet been constructed. This was the tent where God met with Moses and shared His plans with him. Moses asked for God's grace to bless the people and God's presence to go with the people, and the Lord granted his request. Other nations had laws, priests, and sacrifices. Only Israel had the presence of God among them.

Moses knew what many in the church today have forgotten that the most important activity of God's people is worship. Moses had been given a guarantee of God's presence with His people, but that was not enough; he wanted a new vision of the glory of God. Moses returned for another forty days with God on the mountain, and God gave him new tablets of Law. God now reminds Moses that the people of Israel were to be different from the people living in the land of Canaan, and He warned Moses against the sin of idolatry. God gave Israel His Law so that they might live godly lives and manifest His glory.

Moses had already told the people that God wanted their willing gifts so that the tabernacle could be built. These were to be willing gifts from the heart, for the Lord loves a cheerful giver. It was "the Lord's offering," and therefore, they wanted to give their best. In fact, they gave so generously that Moses had to stop them from bringing more.

In chapters 35-39, Moses names the various parts of the tabernacle one by one, as well as the garments of the priests. God is concerned with every detail of our work and does not minimize any aspect of it. The smallest hook for the curtains was as important to Him as the brazen altar. If we are faithful in the small things, God can trust us with the bigger things. Scholars have estimated that in the construction of the tabernacle, the people used nearly a ton of gold, about three and a quarter tons of silver, and two and a quarter tons of bronze. It was not an inexpensive structure!

Israel had arrived at Sinai three months after their exodus from Egypt, and it was now the first day of the second year of their pilgrimage, so nine months transpired from the giving of the Law to the dedicating of the finished tabernacle. Nearly three months of that time, Moses had been with God on the mountain. We see then that the construction of the tabernacle took about six months.

As he was setting up the tabernacle this first time, Moses put up the tent, and then, working outward from the holy of holies, he put the pieces of furniture in place. When that was done, he set up the outer court. With everything in its proper place, Moses then anointed the structure and its contents and set it apart for the Lord. His final act of dedication was the consecration of Aaron and the priests, which was followed by their presenting the sacrifices to the Lord.

The high point of the tabernacle dedication service, was the revelation of the glory of God in the fire on the altar and the cloud in the tent. No matter how expensive the tabernacle was, without the presence of God it was just another tent. The glory not only resided in the tabernacle, but it guided the Israelites on their journey.

### **Read Exodus Chapters 33:7-40 and Answer the Following Questions:**

1. Where did Moses put his tent now? Where was it before? Why did Moses move his tent? (See 33:7-11)

2. Moses appears to be grieving that he may not know God in the same way ever again because of this great sin of the people. What does God do for Moses? (See 33:18-23)

3. How can the reality of God's presence not only be with us, but also shape our decisions and actions in today's world?

4. As Moses brings two new tablets of stone up the mountain for the Lord to again write on, he is still mourning that God will not be with them in the same way as before. What does the Lord do in 34:5-7 to ease Moses' pain?

5. What does God do in 34:10-28?

6. What happened to Moses in the presence of God? What did this prove to the people? (See 34:29-35)

7. How does the ordinance of the Sabbath seen in this section, practically relate to our understanding of life application for us today? (See 35:1-3)

8. In your life, when have you seen an example of everyone's unique skill and contribution coming together for a greater purpose, similar to the construction of the Tabernacle? How can we use our personal talents and skills in the service of the Kingdom and our communities? How can we ensure that our skills and contributions are not used for self-glory but for glorifying God? (See 35:5, 20-29) Note the word: "Heart"

9. In what ways does the Israelites willingness to contribute freewill offerings reflect their relationship with God? How can this be applied to our lives today? (See 36:2-7)

10. In what ways can the idea of a "Tabernacle or Sanctuary" be modeled in our own lives and homes? (See 36:1-38)

11. What is the importance of Bezalel's craftsmanship in the construction of these sacred items seen in Exodus 37-39?

12. What does the construction of all these holy items teach us about the importance of devotion, skill, and detail in our service to God?
13. How does the journey of the Israelites mirror our own spiritual walks?
14. In our present-day world, how can we create spaces that are “holy” or set apart for God?
15. How does the tabernacle setting and anointing process relate to the importance of order and holiness in our present-day world?

### **Excellence Starts at the Top**

Moses set an excellent example for his work force by doing his own job “*According to all that the Lord had commanded Him*” Exodus 40:16. That kind of dedication set the pace for everyone else and reaped valuable rewards.

For example, the management team for the construction of the tabernacle modeled Moses’ example by performing their tasks with “*wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship*” so that they completed the project “*according to all the Lord had commanded.*” Likewise, all of the workers under them carried out their tasks “*as the Lord had commanded.*”

Excellence in Israel began with Moses. It spread to the group of managers helping to supervise and coordinate the project. Then, the workers followed suit. Do you model excellence and quality for others in all that you do?