



*More Than*  
**STONE SOUP**

***A Stewardship and Giving Emphasis Program for Congregations***

---

**WEEK #4 – SERMON NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS**

Timing: Sunday of Week #4

Sermon Title: A Willing Heart

Preaching Text: Excerpts from Exodus 25 & 35-37

Background Material: Bulletin Insert, “An Expression of Faith”

Sermon Suggestions: These points are to be covered and provide a sermon outline:

1. Become familiar with the appointed Bulletin Insert.
2. Select excerpts from the suggested to use as one of the readings. Be certain to include Ex. 25:1-9, Ex. 35:4-10 & 20-21, and Ex. 36:2-7
3. In chapter 25, God instructs Moses on how he wants the tabernacle constructed and equipped. God’s instructions are very precise and detailed.
4. God demands materials that are scarce and expensive from a band of fugitives who have fled from Egypt and are wandering in the wilderness.
5. God further instructs that all materials are to be donated, and donations are to be accepted only from people with a willing heart to give.
6. In chapter 35, Moses takes God’s wishes to the people and the work begins. All materials are provided through the donations of people with willing hearts to give, and all work is performed by skilled workman with willing hearts to provide their labor as a freewill offering to God.
7. In chapter 36, the workers report to Moses concerning materials donations. The people with willing hearts to give had donated more materials than could be used. So much had been donated there was no place to put it all.

8. Moses addresses the people; if they have not yet made their donation—it is too late. Moses then orders that no more donations are to be received, and restrains the people from giving.
9. The story reveals what can be accomplished when we give with willing hearts.
10. Explain that what makes our gifts meaningful and worthy is our attitude with which we give.
11. The fugitives from Egypt were able to provide all that was needed from what they had (Ex. 35:5).
12. As people who have been blessed by a generous God, we have all we need to do God's bidding, as well. We are able to give from our abundance and need not worry about any perceived scarcity.
13. As it was with the Hebrew people in our story, giving is a spiritual issue with us. Either we trust God—or we don't—for our daily needs. Our faith and trust in God frees us to be generous givers.
14. As always, God's grace alone makes possible this and all we do in his name. We live within the framework of God's love., Our generous giving comes from within that framework as well.