

Sermon Discussion

21 March 2021

Read Exodus 31:1-11

Dig Deeper

Bezalel means *"In the shadow of God,"* and according to the Jewish historian, Josephus, he was Miriam's grandson. Oholiab, his assistant, means *"The Father is my tent"*.

God endowed both men with natural ability as well as with the Holy Spirit to do the work He had appointed for them. Though they were skilled, the narrative emphasizes clearly that they were to do the work of building the tabernacle by means of the skills that the Spirit of God would give them.

There is an important parallel here with God's work of Creation in Genesis 1. Just as God did his work of Creation by means of his Spirit (Genesis 1:2-2:3), so also Israel was to do their work of building the tabernacle by God's Spirit. The parallels between God's work in Creation and Israel's work on the tabernacle are part of the Pentateuch's larger emphasis on the importance of the work of God's Spirit among his people.

1. What's your first thought when someone asks you what you are good at? Is there anything you feel that you were born to do?
2. Read verse 2 again. Who specifically chose Bezalel? Why is that significant?
3. In verse 3, we read the first time in the Bible anyone is described as being "filled with the Spirit of God." What other talents and abilities does God give to the Bezalel? Which, if any, are unexpected?
4. Read Ephesians 4:11-13. How does it make you feel to realize that God has given you talents to use for His mission? Humbled? Empowered? Scared? Intimidated?
5. In what way can our talents/gifts/abilities build up the Body of Christ? How can you see your talents being used in your home, job, church or neighborhood?

Application & Prayer

- God has made you unique. Praise Him for your abilities. Thank Him for your gifts. If you aren't sure what your spiritual gifts are, find an online test and take it. Then share the test with one of your closest friends and ask them to tell what they think about the results.
- Think about someone you know who is gifted in way that is not normally celebrated or noticed. Call them and thank them for the work God has called them to do, and then pray a prayer of thanksgiving with them.
- Meditate of this verse: *"And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you..."* Exodus 31:6