

## **“The Giving was Wonderfully Abundant”**

Rev. Erika Martinez-Flores  
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Westby UMC & Viroqua UMC

In 1938, the Mexican government, tired of foreign companies exploiting oil fields without any benefit for the country; President Lázaro Cárdenas determined that all oil should belong to the Mexican people; However, this decision would imply a great economic sacrifice for everyone, so Cárdenas asks the people to be patient and support this initiative since it is necessary to pay a large debt that was much larger than the resources the government had.

The people, knowing that returning control of the oil to Mexican hands represented the total sovereignty of the country, men, women and children handed over their assets to the government in order to pay this debt. Land, jewelry, goats and chickens were received by the government and with this the debt was paid off without the country having to go through a long recession.

The Word of God tells us that the entire congregation that made up the people of Israel heard the message of the Lord. But, however, in the next verse it is said that those who came to bring an offering were those who were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit moved a sector of the people to respond to God; but he also says that this decision to give to God was a voluntary act, never forced or manipulated.

When people are sensitive to the voice of God, they know exactly what they should do, because there is no confusion in their decisions to give themselves to God in all aspects of life. Another relevant thing is that God would never force us to do something we don't want, however, there is a valuable element here and it is gratitude. They did this because they had been safely brought out of slavery in Egypt.

It is important to note that I am not saying that the Spirit of God is selective, but that to have been moved and obey, it was due to the sensitivity and gratitude in the heart of

each Israelite. So, generosity is giving or giving as the case may be when we are sensitive to the things of God and this comes from a correct relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, one is more generous to God's work when giving is an act of the will, moved by gratitude for the things done by God in our lives. You are generous when you are happy and satisfied with what you have.

We read that only a sector of the people responded to the invitation to be generous in the work of God. Also, let us note that the definition of generosity indicates that there are two important elements for generosity to occur and these are: Courage and Effort.

Before explaining both concepts, we must emphasize that being generous is not only giving money, (although it is an important aspect) it is giving yourself completely (strength, energy, talents, gifts, goods, resources, etc.)

**A. Courage.** This was required to do something that others did not do, it was to leave the comfort of the majority and get involved in an important and transcendent matter (building the tabernacle of meeting for God) and it involved running out of some resources or, even having responsibilities that they had never had; everything to achieve the goal.

This means that responding to this call involved a sacrifice that not many are willing to make: but those who did had the courage and accepted the challenge with a grateful heart that was moved to generosity.

**B. Effort.** Possibly the people already had what they gave for the construction of the tabernacle and had to make an effort to get ahead with what they gave in the service of God. Furthermore, effort is observed when you use more than you have to achieve the goal or do the will of God.

Generosity is something that is linked to effort because you have to fight the battle of detachment, the effort of living without what is given and seeking to give or give more to

do the will of God. Remember that generosity occurs in those who are “Brave and Hardworking.”

At this point we must remember again that when talking about generosity we should not only refer to money (which is an important part of it). The Bible says that those who responded to God's invitation gave of their goods: chains, earrings, earrings, rings, skins, bracelets, fabrics, wood, etc.

But there were also those who did not have it and they gave their work to achieve the stated objective: "... and all the skilled women spun with their hands..." and "... they spun goat hair." This is important to highlight that not only did some bring things for the construction, but they worked in the construction and some who did not have to give did not stay lamenting that they could not help; They began to spin, dig, prop, etc. for the tabernacle.

We should not feel limited by not having resources at that time, remember that you can help build the Lord's church with many other things that God uses to extend his kingdom. Remember that generosity is not only expressed with goods. Use your talents!

God wants to build a wonderful church and each of us must be generous with him, with our money, with our time, with our abilities, talents, gifts, and energies. And not be like those who listened to God and did not leave what they did to do their own thing, missing out on being richly blessed and having a life with purpose.