"Everyone Has Been Filled whit Heart Wisdom."

Rev. Erika Martinez-Flores Exodus 35 November 19, 2023. Westby UMC &Viroqua UMC

Let's recap; While the people of Israel were wandering through the desert, Moses came down from the mountain after reconcile the people with God; Moses calls them to give them instructions for the construction of the tabernacle. This necessary space of worship. offering and sacrifice, should be built following specific instructions and materials; but more important than that; It should be the attitude of the people and their willingness to respond to God's call.

In his call, Moses reminded them to put God as a priority, emphasizing the need to keep the Sabbath. Moses also calls them to bring the necessary materials (gold, silver, bronze, skins, jewelry, fine fabrics, wood). This passage teaches us that all the people were moved to respond with a generous heart, so men and women of all ages brought their goods and abilities to build the house of God together.

Continuing with chapter 35, Moses calls Bezaleel and Oholiab to direct the work, two leaders who, thanks to the work of the Spirit, have received abilities, skills and intelligence to fulfill their function. Here we learn that leaders for God's work will always, always, receive what is necessary to fulfill their duties. If you have been called to be part of a committee or to carry out a specific task within the church, remember that God, through his Spirit, will fill your heart with wisdom, intelligence, science and all art, to do what you have done. been called.

And how does this happen, how can we be sure that God will provide us with what we need to do his work? First, and we have already talked about it, having a generous heart as a result of our gratitude to God for his blessings and; Second, be willing for God to act through us.

It means investing our time, strengthening our relationship with God, putting our skills and talents at his disposal and presenting our offerings and tithes; because we love God above all things: love him with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. It is about coming to this place, moved by love; doing what we do, for love.

And do you know what the result of this is?: ABUNDANCE, because only people who love what they do, give or do more than their share, are people who are accustomed to giving more than what is asked of them.

People who don't love what they do, just do what they have to do, that is, they are unworthy. Luke 17:10 "So you also, when you have done all that was commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants, for we did what we ought to do.'"

The generosity of God's people was such that there came a time when Moses had to tell them to stop because they already had too much. The offerings were so many that they hindered the work of the workers. This is every pastor's dream. Can you imagine having to tell you: no more, don't bring more, we have plenty!

But, sadly that does not happen, on the contrary, as a pastor and as a leader many times, and I emphasize MANY, we have to almost beg for the members of our church to fulfill their promises. And you have no idea how exhausting, frustrating and tiring it is. And I am referring to that promise that you said you would keep, when you confirmed as a member of this church.

Have you asked yourself why your church doesn't do the same thing as that church you went to and what impressed you so much? Or, why your church doesn't have this or that program like that church that is so large and successful and to which you are seriously considering changing because your church does not meet your expectations? Because it is also easier to join what is already successful than to start something new, it requires more work. Well, I have the answer for you: it is not because we do not want to or because we are not interested; It is because we do not have the necessary resources.

I wonder: What is the opposite of abundance? scarcity, poverty. Because we need people who deliver their skills; We need people who are willing; We need people who do not forget to give; We need people to come on Sundays and to other church activities; people who say yes when we ask for their support, people who respond, who accept; We need people who have a

grateful heart. Because we are staying poor, because we are staying alone, because we are in a time of scarcity.

Don't be surprised if one day it gets too cold here, it's just that we didn't have enough to fix the boilers; Don't be surprised that there is no Sunday school, it's just that we don't have anyone willing to dedicate their time to it; Don't be surprised if there is little attendance, it's because for many there are things much more important than God.

Doesn't the Word of God tell us to bring our offerings (and you know well that this is not just referring to the economic offering) and present them to God so that physical and spiritual food will not be lacking in his house?

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty,

"and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven

and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3.10

But wait, what does it say? Try me? Is God telling us to test him? In order for blessings and gifts to abound, do we have to test him? That's right, God asks us to prove Him, well, let's accept the challenge: let's prove God.

Let us come with our hearts full of gratitude, let us fill the offering plates; let's fill out the volunteer forms; that there is no more space on these benches; that the food at the potlucks runs out (not because of gluttons but because there were so many of us).

Let's make it so that in winter we are not worried about how to heat this building and in summer how to cool it. Let's make it possible for children to have their Sunday school, for young people to fill this space with their laughter and pranks. Let's try God, let's do it, but first let's keep our vows and then, only then, abundance will prosper and we will be blessed until it overflows.