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A1442 ~ Israel builds a Tabernacle.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

We **ALL** have special gifts or abilities we can use to bring blessing to other people. God, our Creator, has put these abilities within us, and He wants us to make good use of them.

We may be good at following orders when we are working with other people. We may be good at leading others when there's a job to do. We may have the gift of encouraging people to keep going when the job seems too hard. Or, perhaps we have the knowledge and skill to get some special task done. God has given gifts to each of us, and although they differ, all gifts are important, and He knows if we are using them correctly.

Today's Bible story teaches God's command to Moses to make a special dwelling place, called the Tabernacle, for His Presence to stay among the people of Israel. It was a large tent and was made so that the people could take it down, when they travelled, and set it up again easily. They would know God was still with them, as they went from place to place. The people were to bring their very best materials, <u>willingly</u>, to build the Tabernacle. They needed gold, silver, bronze, precious stones, fine linen, fine leather skins and wood, and coloured wools for embroidery. And their best craftsmen would carry out the work.

Our great Creator-God loves beauty, and we show we love Him when we willingly <u>give</u>, and <u>do</u> our best for Him.

God had given great skills to Bezalel, and his helper, Oholiab. They were skilled in carving wood, shaping gold and silver; cutting and setting precious stones. They also worked out beautiful designs with blue, purple and red wool for the inside hangings and curtains. And they taught their skills to others.

God had also told Moses to make a special box called the Ark of God's covenant with Israel, to hold the Ten Commandments. It was made of wood, and overlaid inside and out with gold. Its beautiful cover had two pure gold figures of angel beings, one on each side, and was called the Mercy Seat. This precious Ark stayed in the innermost part of the Tabernacle called the Holy of Holies. The High Priest only, would come into this special room, just <u>once</u> each year, to ask God's forgiveness for his own sins and the sins of the people.

Well, Moses has just told all the people God wanted them to make this Tabernacle, so that His Presence could be with them always. And there was great excitement.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

So the people of Israel celebrated the end of their work, and dedicated this costly and beautiful Tabernacle to the One True and Everlasting Holy God. How excited they must have been! The Bible book Exodus, chapter 40, says this, "During all their wanderings, they could see the cloud of the Lord's presence over the tabernacle during the day, and a fire burning above it during the night."

Every willing person had helped make this place of beauty and wonder. They had shown they wanted to love and obey the Almighty God.

What is <u>your</u> special gift? You <u>do</u> have one; <u>everyone</u> does! And God wants you to use it to bless others, and to glorify Him. You might ask, "What can I do? I'm only a good cook. How can I honour God?" Well, everyone enjoys good food, so you could cook meals for special celebrations. Others may be good farmers; when they have good harvests, they could give some to those in need. Another's gift may be kindness visiting sick people and helping widows and orphans. Some may have gifts of music and song, or art, and these can bless many people, when we use them to honour God. The Bible book Colossians, chapter 3, says this, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart....remember that the Lord will give you a reward." He wants us to use our gifts to bless our families, our friends, and even our bosses, and strangers.

God gives us all His gift of love, and this love enables us to love others. The Bible book 1 John, chapter 4, says this, "We love because He first loved us." It also says, "The command Christ has given us, is this: whoever loves God must love his brother also....we cannot love God Whom we have not seen, if we do not love our brother whom we have seen."

In the Bible book Matthew, chapter 22, the religious leaders asked Jesus, "What is the most important commandment for people to obey?" And Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your Godwith <u>all your heart</u>, with <u>all your soul</u>, and with <u>all your mind</u>. And the second most important is like it: love your neighbour as you love yourself. The whole law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets stand on these two commands."

If we truly love God with our whole being, we will want to obey Him, and we will show His love to others. When we treat people just the way we would like them to treat us, we will be obeying all the other commandments. So what gift has God given **you?** He wants you to use it with love. The book 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, says this, "If I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burnt but, if I have no love, this does me no good."

Remember it is love that gives the value to everything we do for God.

MUSIC - Integrity Music.

That was Chris Rodriguez and Lisa Glasgow singing, "Remain In My Love."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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