

Introduction

I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Exodus 35:4-36:7 - Israelites' giving for the tabernacle

Reminder about tobacco use and church leadership

II. THE ISRAELITES' GIVING MODEL

Willing hearts brought gold, silver, materials for tabernacle

Gave generously, more than enough, had to be restrained from giving

Motivation for giving: faith despite no income source

III. COMPARING THEN AND NOW

Israelites had limited resources; we have expandable resources

Similarities: God's people, faith, mission, worship place

Differences: They gave more than enough; we struggle to meet budget

IV. REASONS FOR OUR STRUGGLE

1. Love of possessions over sacrifice

2. Knowing the Lord too little

John 14:12 - Greater works through knowing Christ _____

3. Fear of change and its effects on growth _____

V. EXAMPLES OF FEAR AND RESISTANCE

Demus Syndrome - abandoning service for worldly pleasures _____

Miriam Mistake - grumbling and opposing leadership _____

Thomas Crisis - doubt causing inactivity _____

Judas Disciples - hidden opposition within the church _____

VI. LACK OF SPIRITUAL AMBITION

Questions to assess spiritual growth and ministry involvement _____

Need for active ministry, training, teaching, and soul-winning _____

VII. SYMPTOMS OF CONGREGATIONAL STRUGGLE

Low Bible reading and attendance rates _____

Difficulty in giving, volunteering, leadership recruitment _____

VIII. THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

Acts 3:19 - Repent and return for times of refreshing _____

Repent by prioritizing Bible reading and church involvement _____

Submit to leadership and seek next steps in spiritual growth _____

Repentance is the key to overcoming our struggles _____