



## Life Group Study Notes

### “New Sanctuary Celebration: Move, Lord!”

Bishop Marvin Winans - March 12, 2017

#### **Warm Up (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.**

- Besides the holidays, what are some other times that your extended family gathers together? Which is your favorite time?
- Who is the central person of your larger family, around whom the family tends to gather when you meet? What makes them special?
- If you could host a special party and have any one guest in the world come to it, who would you want to invite?

#### **Word (10-15 minutes)**

**Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org).**

When God delivered Israel out of Egypt, he moved the hearts of the Egyptians to give generously to them. Once they had left, God told Moses to ask the Israelites to voluntarily give from what he had given them for the purpose of building a Tabernacle, so that he might dwell among them.

*Exodus 25:1-9 ESV The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it."*

Once Israel came into the Promised Land they went through a long period where they neglected the presence of God. God's presence was particularly connected with the Ark of the Covenant, which was to be located in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle. Yet Israel's first king, Saul, never inquired of the Lord by means of the Ark. It wasn't until David came along that a priority was once again placed on setting up the Tabernacle with the Ark, so that Israel might regularly worship God and have access to his presence.

Under David's leadership and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, Solomon built a more permanent dwelling place for God among Israel, which of course is the Temple. David had wanted to build the Temple himself, but God forbade him, saying that his son, Solomon, would be the one to do it. David responded by accepting God's decree, but nevertheless gave himself to help Solomon prepare for the building of the Temple. He drew up the architectural and liturgical plans based on insight from the Spirit. He also saved and gave lots of personal wealth, and furthermore inspired many other leaders and people in Israel to also give toward the Temple's construction.

When Solomon and Israel dedicated the Temple, God's presence was strongly manifested among them.

1 Kings 8:10-11 (ESV) *And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.*

Yet God had something even better planned. His ultimate aim was not to dwell among Israel by manifesting his presence in a building. Rather, it is to dwell among the nations by manifesting his presence in and among his people--a multiethnic people redeemed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The inauguration of this took place on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus rose from the dead. Approximately 120 people were gathered in a room, seeking God in prayer and worshipping Jesus. Suddenly the Holy Spirit swept into the room with his powerful presence and filled all the believers, who began to speak in other languages. This marked the beginning of an ongoing outpouring of God's Spirit upon the early church.

God still intends to do the same today. He is still looking for people who are hungry for his presence and power, and who are sold out to engage in his mission to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

Are you one of those for whom God is looking? Are you seeking him with great spiritual hunger and thirst? Are you passionately engaged in God's mission?

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.**

- Are you hungry for God's presence and power? What contributes to your spiritual hunger? What detracts from your spiritual hunger?
- Are you passionately engaged in God's mission? What contributes to your passion? What detracts from it?
- Who are you influencing to seek God and engage in his mission? What makes you effective in influencing others do this? What detracts from it?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Express to God your hunger for his presence.
- Express to God your hunger for his power so that you might be effective in engaging in his mission.
- Ask God to visit your church with his presence and power in a great way, and to enable all of us to bring in a great harvest of people into God's kingdom.