

What gift shall you take from the people? Only that which each person on their own decides is theirs to give for that which is needed to carry out the task.

The task? Building a place which can serve as a religious focus, and as a reminder of God's constant presence.

We have much the same thing today. Our institutions run best when people make their own decisions about how much they can give - where they can best volunteer, in what way and for how long. It is one thing to ask somebody if they would consider helping out in a particular fashion. It is quite another thing to decide somebody would be perfect for a particular job, or to presume that because they have done something specific in the past, that that specific thing will continue to be the gift they should be giving.

The only two questions for us this week are: 1) Have I actually given that which my heart has decided I will give? 2) Have I taken to heart the lesson from the construction of the Ark of the Covenant? Are the things that I do, and the reasons I do them, congruent with each other - or am I cheating myself from being an amazing partner with God?