

- Song 89 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

- "Moses Carefully Followed Instructions": (10 min.)



39:32, 43; 40:1, 2, 16

Moses conscientiously followed Jehovah's detailed instructions for the construction and setting up of the tabernacle. We should likewise listen to any instructions we receive from Jehovah's organization and obey promptly and wholeheartedly. This is true even if it does not seem important to follow them or we do not understand the reason for the instructions.— Lu 16:10.

Why should we listen to and carefully follow instructions . . .

- during meetings for field service?

- regarding preparing for medical emergencies?

- about disaster preparedness?

Ex 39:32—Moses carefully followed Jehovah's instructions in the construction of the tabernacle (w11 9/15 27 °13)

(Exodus 39:32) So all the work for the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was completed, and the Israelites did everything that Jehovah had commanded Moses. They did just so.

*** w11 9/15 pp. 27-28 par. 13 Are You Known by Jehovah? ***

13 In contrast, Moses was "by far the meekest of all the men who were upon the surface of the ground." (Num. 12:3) He manifested his meekness and humility by his determination to follow Jehovah's direction. (Ex. 7:6; 40:16) There is no indication that Moses often questioned Jehovah's way of doing things or got annoyed at having to follow procedures that Jehovah set out. For example, Jehovah gave commands regarding the tabernacle construction down to the smallest detail, such as the color of the thread and the number of loops to be used in making the tent cloths. (Ex. 26:1-6) If a human overseer in God's organization provides you with instructions that seem extremely detailed, you might at times

feel frustrated. Jehovah, however, is a perfect overseer, who delegates generously and trusts his servants. When he gives many details, he does so for good reason. Take note, though, that Moses did not become irritated with Jehovah for giving that level of detail, as if Jehovah were demeaning him or stifling his creativity or freedom. Rather, Moses made sure that the workers “did just so” in following God’s directions. (Ex. 39:32) What a humble course! Moses recognized that it was Jehovah’s work and that he was just a tool being used to get that work done.

- (Numbers 12:3) Now the man Moses was by far the meekest of all the men on the face of the earth.
- (Exodus 7:6) Moses and Aaron did what Jehovah had commanded them; they did just so.
- (Exodus 40:16) Moses did according to all that Jehovah had commanded him. He did just so.
- (Exodus 26:1-6) “You are to make the tabernacle with ten tent cloths of fine twisted linen, blue thread, purple wool, and scarlet material. You are to make them with embroidered cherub designs. 2 Each tent cloth will be 28 cubits long and 4 cubits wide. All the tent cloths are to be the same size. 3 Five tent cloths are to be joined one to another to form a series, and the other five tent cloths will be joined in a series. 4 You will make loops of blue thread on the edge of the one tent cloth at the end of the series, and you are to do the same on the outermost edge of the other set where it will join. 5 You will make 50 loops on the one tent cloth and 50 loops on the edge of the other tent cloth so that they will be opposite each other where they join. 6 You are to make 50 gold clasps and join the tent cloths together with the clasps, and the tabernacle will form one unit.

- (Exodus 39:32) So all the work for the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was completed, and the Israelites did everything that Jehovah had commanded Moses. They did just so.

Ex 39:43—Moses personally inspected the completed tabernacle

(Exodus 39:43) 43 When Moses inspected all their work, he saw that they had done it just as Jehovah had commanded; and Moses blessed them.

****some information that I found

*** w64 8/1 pp. 471-472 pars. 2-4 Proving Faithful in Small Matters ***
 setting the right example in family life, and clean living habits. Then, being faithful in these privileges, we may be appointed as an overseer in the congregation to assist in shepherding the flock of God. All of this will bring into our life multitudes of details every day. These are the ones we cannot very well let go undone. Serving God in an organization means getting things done. Caring for them means spiritual health for ourselves as well as others. (1 Tim. 4:16) Spiritual matters should take first place. (Matt. 6:26) When weary of facing the problems of each day, we have help from those mentioned in Isaiah 50:4: “The Lord Jehovah himself has given me the tongue of the taught ones, that I may know how to answer the tired one with a word.” Luke 19:17 says, “Well done, good slave!” It applies to the manner in which the faithful anointed followers of Christ Jesus handle Kingdom interests. (Matt. 25:21) This good manner results in their being appointed as the “faithful and discreet slave” over all the Kingdom interests on earth. The principle holds true of all servants; faithfulness is a requirement.

3 In fact, the real person often shows itself in one’s handling of small matters. In the big

things there usually is someone there to admire us, to say "Well done!" and to recognize our abilities. Even a lazy person will often work to receive the applause of men. (Prov. 13:4) He will prepare talks to deliver before the congregation and will do well; but when it comes to helping some elderly person in the congregation with transportation to the meetings or conducting a Bible study with an interested person regularly every week, this may reveal indifference to small matters in God's organization. He may not be faithful. So loyalty to God is easily discerned by the way a person cares for the small matters in an appreciative way. The willing person gains so much. "The generous soul will itself be made fat, and the one freely watering others will himself also be freely watered." (Prov. 11:25) These kinds of faithful ones Jehovah really blesses and uses in his organization to share in the shepherding work. These are the kind that will care for the "sheep" and feed them with understanding. These are not small matters because of less importance necessarily. So often the small details will hold up the entire structure. For example, a stone arched bridge would not carry a load but would collapse if it were not for the keystone. Yet the keystone is small in comparison to the weight and size of the bridge. However, great care is given to its shape and placement to ensure a safe bridge.

4 Consider some examples of the attitude of Jehovah and his people toward small matters. In the construction of the Tabernacle there were so many things to do. The people responded, "bringing much more than what the service needs for the work that Jehovah has commanded to be done"; the result: "Look! they had done it just as Jehovah had commanded. That was the way they had done. Consequently Moses blessed them." (Ex. 36:5; 39:43) On the other hand, what did Jehovah think of Jonah's idea of going to Tarshish instead of his assignment city, Nineveh? (Jonah 1:4, 10, 12) Then there was Judas Iscariot, who for thirty silver pieces decided his entire future. (Matt. 27:3-6) There was no

selfishness in Paul. Though he must have had many things to care for, he took time to write a special letter to Philemon in behalf of Onesimus. Then there was Joseph, so thorough in his life as a slave that he was soon in charge of his master's household. Even in prison he displayed the same qualities, and soon was taking care of many details in the prison's operation. He prospered in Pharaoh's kingdom too. Jehovah blessed him and, as stated at Genesis 39:23, "what he was doing Jehovah was making it turn out successful" in his hand, and "Jehovah was with Joseph."

*** it-1 p. 341 Blessing ***

When individuals have done something that contributes to Jehovah's praise, others have seen fit to pronounce a blessing on them. Moses blessed Bezalel and the other workers at their completion of the tabernacle construction. (Ex 39:43)

Ex 40:1, 2, 16—Moses set up the tabernacle according to Jehovah's direction (w05 7/15 27 °3)

(Exodus 40:1, 2) 40 Then Jehovah said to Moses: 2 "On the first day of the first month, you are to set up the tabernacle, the tent of meeting.

(Exodus 40:16) 16 Moses did according to all that Jehovah had commanded him. He did just so.

*** w05 7/15 p. 27 par. 3 Are You Faithful in All Things? ***

3 "Moses as an attendant was faithful," states Hebrews 3:5. What made the prophet Moses faithful? In the construction and setting up of the tabernacle, "Moses proceeded to do according to all that Jehovah had commanded him. He did just so." (Exodus 40:16) As worshippers of Jehovah, we show faithfulness by obediently serving him. This certainly includes our remaining loyal to Jehovah while

facing difficult tests or severe trials. However, success in dealing with big tests is not the sole factor that determines our faithfulness. "The person faithful in what is least is faithful also in much," stated Jesus, "and the person unrighteous in what is least is unrighteous also in much." (Luke 16:10) We must remain faithful even in seemingly small matters.

- (Hebrews 3:5) Now Moses was faithful as an attendant in all the house of that One as a testimony of the things that were to be spoken afterward,
- (Exodus 40:16) Moses did according to all that Jehovah had commanded him. He did just so.
- (Luke 16:10) The person faithful in what is least is faithful also in much, and the person unrighteous in what is least is unrighteous also in much.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Ex 39:34—What may explain how the Israelites were able to obtain sealskins for the tabernacle? (it-2 884 ¶13)

(Exodus 39:34) 34 its covering of ram skins dyed red, its covering of sealskins, the curtain for the screen;

*** it-2 p. 884 Sealskin ***

How Obtainable by Israelites. If the ta'chash of the Bible does designate a kind of seal, then a question may arise as to how it was possible for the Israelites to obtain sealskins. While seals are generally associated with Arctic and Antarctic regions, some seals favor warmer climates. Today a few monk seals still inhabit part of the Mediterranean Sea, as well as other warmer waters. Over the centuries man has greatly reduced the number of seals, and in Bible times these animals may have been abundant in the Mediterranean and in the Red Sea. As late as 1832 an English edition of Calmet's Dictionary of the Holy Bible (p. 139) observed: "On many of the small islands of the

Red sea, around the peninsula of Sinai, are found seals."—See also The Tabernacle's Typical Teaching, by A. J. Pollock, London, p. 47.

Ex 40:34—When the cloud began to cover the tent of meeting, what did this indicate? (w15 7/15 21 ¶1)

(Exodus 40:34) 34 And the cloud began to cover the tent of meeting, and Jehovah's glory filled the tabernacle.

*** w15 7/15 p. 21 Does It Matter Who Notices Your Work? ***

When the tabernacle was completed, a cloud "began to cover the tent of meeting, and Jehovah's glory filled the tabernacle." (Ex. 40:34) What a clear indication of Jehovah's approval! How do you think Bezalel and Oholiab felt at that moment? Although their names were not engraved on their handiwork, they must have felt satisfaction in knowing that God's blessing was on all their efforts. (Prov. 10:22) In the years that followed, it surely warmed their hearts to see that their handiwork continued to be used in Jehovah's service. When they come back to life in the new world, Bezalel and Oholiab will no doubt be thrilled to learn that the tabernacle was used in true worship for some 500 years!

- (Exodus 40:34) And the cloud began to cover the tent of meeting, and Jehovah's glory filled the tabernacle.
- (Proverbs 10:22) It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich, And He adds no pain with it.

What spiritual gems from this week's Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah God, the field ministry, or something else?

**Bible Reading:) (4 min. or less) •Ex 39:1-21
(th study 5)**

(Exodus 39:1-21) 39 From the blue thread, the purple wool, and the scarlet material, they made finely woven garments for ministering in the holy place. They made the holy garments that were for Aaron, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses. 2 He made the eph'od of gold, blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine twisted linen. 3 They hammered plates of gold into thin sheets, and he cut it into threads to work in with the blue thread, the purple wool, the scarlet material, and the fine linen, and it was embroidered. 4 They made shoulder pieces for it that were attached, and it was joined to them at its two edges. 5 And the woven belt, which was attached to the eph'od for tying it securely in position, was made of the same material, of gold, blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine twisted linen, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses. 6 Then they mounted the onyx stones in gold settings, and they engraved them with the names of the sons of Israel, as they would engrave a seal. 7 He placed them on the shoulder pieces of the eph'od as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses. 8 Then he made the breastpiece with the workmanship of an embroiderer, like the workmanship of the eph'od, out of gold, blue thread, purple wool, scarlet material, and fine twisted linen. 9 It was square when doubled. They made the breastpiece, which, when doubled, was as long and as wide as the span of the hand. 10 They set four rows of stones in it. The first row was ruby, topaz, and emerald. 11 The second row was turquoise, sapphire, and jasper. 12 The third row was lesh'em stone, agate, and amethyst. 13 And the fourth row was chrys'o-lite, onyx, and jade. They were mounted in settings of gold. 14 The stones corresponded to the names of the 12 sons of Israel, and the names were engraved like a seal, each name representing one of the 12 tribes. 15 Then they made wreathed chains on the breastpiece, like cords of pure gold. 16 And they made two settings of gold and two rings of

gold and attached the two rings to the two corners of the breastpiece. 17 After that they put the two cords of gold through the two rings at the corners of the breastpiece. 18 Then they put the two ends of the two cords through the two settings and attached them to the shoulder pieces on the front of the eph'od. 19 Next they made two rings of gold and set them at the two ends on the inside edge of the breastpiece, facing the eph'od. 20 Then they made two more rings of gold and put them on the front of the eph'od, below the two shoulder pieces, close to where it is joined, above the woven belt of the eph'od. 21 Finally, they tied the breastpiece with a blue cord from its rings to the rings of the eph'od, in order to keep the breastpiece in its place on the eph'od, above the woven belt, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

- **Initial Call Video: (4 min.) Discussion.** Play the video. Stop the video at each pause, and ask the audience the questions that appear in the video. Discuss how to remain neutral if the householder wants to discuss political or social issues.

[illegible]

• Initial Call: (3 min. or less) Begin with the sample conversation. Respond to a question from the householder about your view of a political candidate or issue. (th study 12)

• INITIAL CALL

Question: What is God's Kingdom?

Scripture: Mt 6:9, 10 or Isa 9:6, 7

Link: What will God's Kingdom accomplish?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

• wp20.2 4, 6

- (Matthew 6:9, 10) "You must pray, then, this way: "Our Father in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. 10 Let your Kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also on earth.
- (Isaiah 9:6, 7) For a child has been born to us, A son has been given to us; And the rulership will rest on his shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 To the increase of his rulership And to peace, there will be no end, On the throne of David and on his kingdom In order to establish it firmly and to sustain it Through justice and righteousness, From now on and forever. The zeal of Jehovah of armies will do this.

• Talk: (5 min. or less) w16.04 29 ¶8-10—Theme: How Can We Maintain Christian Neutrality in Our Conversations and Thinking? (th study 14)

*** w16 April p. 29 Maintain Your Neutrality in a Divided World ***

BE "CAUTIOUS" YET "INNOCENT"

8 A second key to maintaining our neutrality is to be "cautious as serpents and yet innocent as doves" when facing challenges. (Read Matthew 10:16, 17.) We show caution by recognizing dangers early, and we remain innocent by not letting them lead us into compromise. Consider some potential challenges and how we can deal with them.

9 Conversations. We must exercise caution when political issues are brought up. For example, when presenting the Kingdom message, avoid either praising or criticizing the policies of a political party or leader. Try to establish common ground with the householder by focusing on the underlying problem rather than on any proposed political solution. Then, show from the Bible how God's government will solve the problem completely and permanently. If such volatile issues as same-sex marriage or abortion come up, defend God's standards and explain how we follow these in our own lives. During the discussion, remain strictly neutral on the political aspects of these topics. We take no position regarding what laws should be enacted, repealed, or changed, and we do not pressure others to agree with our view.

10 The media. Information broadcast as "news" is often presented in a biased and opinionated way. The media sometimes functions as a tool of the political system. News reports might be blatantly slanted in lands with State-controlled media, yet even Christians living in so-called free countries must be careful not to adopt the bias of a commentator. Ask yourself, 'Do I enjoy listening to someone in the media because I agree with his political leaning?' If so, you might look for a more objective source of information. In any case, it is wise to limit your intake from media sources that promote a political agenda and to test what you hear against "the standard of wholesome words" found in the Bible.—2 Tim. 1:13.

- (Matthew 10:16, 17) "Look! I am sending you out as sheep among wolves; so prove yourselves cautious as serpents and yet innocent as doves. 17 Be on your guard against men, for they will hand you over to local courts and they will scourge you in their synagogues.
- Paragraph 10
- (2 Timothy 1:13) Keep holding to the standard of wholesome words that you heard from me with the faith and love that result from union with Christ Jesus.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 123

• **Listen With Understanding (Mt 13:16): (15 min.)** Play the video. Then ask the following questions: Why do we need to listen with understanding? What is the meaning of Mark 4:23, 24? How can Hebrews 2:1 be illustrated? How do we show that we are listening with understanding?

Why do we need to listen with understanding?

- (Matthew 13:16) 16 "However, happy are your eyes because they see and your ears because they hear.

What is the meaning of Mark 4:23, 24?

- (Mark 4:23, 24) 23 Whoever has ears to listen, let him listen." 24 He further said to them: "Pay attention to what you are hearing. With the measure that you are measuring out, you will have it measured out to you, yes, you will have more added to you.

How can Hebrews 2:1 be illustrated

(Hebrews 2:1) That is why it is necessary for us to pay more than the usual attention to the things we have heard, so that we never drift away.

How do we show that we are listening with understanding?

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)**

CHAPTER 139

Jesus Brings Paradise and Finishes His Assignment

(1 Corinthians 15:24-28) Next, the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. 25 For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet. 26 And the last enemy, death, is to be brought to nothing. 27 For God "subjected all things under his feet." But when he says that 'all things have been subjected,' it is evident that this does not include the One who subjected all things to him. 28 But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

Paragraph 1 on Page 314

(John 14:30) I will not speak with you much more, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has no hold on me.

Paragraph 2 on Page 314

(Revelation 12:9) So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

(Revelation 12:12) On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing that he has a short period of time."

(Revelation 20:1, 2) And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 He seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for 1,000 years.

Paragraph 3 on Page 314

(Matthew 25:46) These will depart into everlasting cutting-off, but the righteous ones into everlasting life."

Paragraph 4 on Page 314

(Luke 23:43) And he said to him: "Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise."

Paragraph 1 on Page 316

(Revelation 21:3, 4) With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: "Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. 4 And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."

Paragraph 2 on Page 316

(John 5:28, 29) Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, and those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment.

Paragraph 3 on Page 316

(Revelation 20:6) Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of the Christ, and they will rule as kings with him for the 1,000 years.

(Revelation 5:10) and you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth."

Paragraph 5 on Page 316

(1 Corinthians 15:28) But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

Paragraph 6 on Page 316

(John 14:6) Jesus said to him: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

◇ What does the future hold for mankind's great enemy, the Devil?

◇ Who will be able to enjoy Paradise, and under what conditions?

◇ By the end of the thousand years, what will Jesus have accomplished, and what will he then do?

- Concluding Comments (3 min. or less)
- Song 139 and Prayer