

A Cheerful Giver

Tithe and Offerings



Bible Study Pathways

Lesson 27

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A Story to Ponder...

One day as an African church member in Rhodesia was reading the third chapter of Malachi, he was impressed that in addition to paying tithe on his money he should pay tithe on his cattle. True to his convictions he gave every tenth cow that came out of the gate as a tithe to the Lord. His relatives and neighbors told him he was crazy.

But soon after that a lion came into the area. In a neighbors kraal it killed four cows. In another nearby kraal he killed several more cows.

But when he came to the church member's kraal, he circled and made several attempts to jump in but was unsuccessful even though the walls were only as tall as a man. The lion even came halfway inside the kraal door, but could not seem to go any farther.

The next morning excited people went from kraal to kraal, noting the heavy losses. With wonder they inspected the kraal of the faithful tithe payer. Large tracks surrounded the pen and even indicated that the lion had stepped inside, but all the cattle were safe.

"Give us your medicine so that our cattle will be safe," urged his neighbors. "I have no medicine. I paid my tithe, and God protected my cattle. You said that I was crazy. No one is crazy who obeys God."



The Bible says we can rob God. How does Malachi say that the people have robbed God? _____



Malachi 3:8,9 "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."



Regarding tithes and offerings what does God command us to do? _____ God says to prove Him with this.

What will be the result if we obey? _____



Psalm 96:8 "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts."

Malachi 3:10-12 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts."

See also Prov. 3:9,10



How are we to give our gifts to God? _____



2 Corinthians 9:6,7 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

Deut.16:17 “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.”

(1 Cor. 16:1,2 also consider 2 Samuel 24:24)



What portion of our income is tithe? _____



Leviticus 27:30,32 “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’S: it is holy unto the LORD. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.”

(See also verse 33) **Hebrews 7:1,2** “For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;” (Hebrews 7:1-4)



Did Jesus condone tithing? _____



Matt. 23:23 “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”



According to the scriptures, for what purpose is tithe to be used? _____



1 Corinthians 9:13,14 “Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.” (Neh. 10:37,38)

1 Timothy 5:17,18 “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.

And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.”

(Numbers 18:20-28, Genesis 14:18-20) “that there may be meat in mine house” **Mal. 3:10, Matt. 24:45**



Which Old Testament patriarch is the 1st recorded paying tithes? _____



Genesis 14:18-20 “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”



Were tithes and offerings still collected from the New Testament Christians for the upkeep of the ministry? (1 Cor. 16:1-3, 2 Cor. 11:8, 9) _____



List some of the purposes for which offering is to be used. _____



2 Chr. 24:5 “And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter...” **Mark 14:7** “For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.” (**2 Chr. 24:5,8-13; Deut. 15:7,8; Ex. 36:3; 1 Tim. 5:16**)



God measures our giving, not by how much we give, but by how much we have left.



Mark 12:41-44 “And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”

CONCLUSION

The consecration to God of a tithe [a tenth] of all increase, whether of the orchard and harvest-field, the flocks and herds, or the labor of brain or hand; the devotion of a second tithe [or offering] for the relief of the poor and other benevolent uses [such as spreading the gospel, church budget and building churches], tended to keep fresh before the people the truth of God's ownership of all, and of their opportunity to be channels of His blessings. It was a training adapted to kill out all narrowing selfishness, and to cultivate breadth and nobility of character.--"Education," p. 44.