
MALACHI- LESSON # 13

TITHING/OFFERING

Can I separate my finances from my faith?

- Time and Money are the touchiest subjects within the Church, they are also the greatest indicators of where a person is spiritually and what is important to them.
- Is how we handle our finances a spiritual issue? **Luke 16:10**
- Topic of Tithing/Offering is not about money, any more than baptism is about water
- However: can't have baptism without water, can't give without money
 - o We need to faithfully submit to the Lord in every area of our lives
 - o Important to know how to do that in the area of our money/finances

TITHING AND OFFERING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (LEVITICUS 27:26-34)

Leviticus 27:26 *"However, a firstborn among animals, which as a firstborn belongs to the Lord, no man may consecrate it; whether ox or sheep, it is the Lord's."*

- **God wants the First fruits**
 - o This puts us in a position of faith
 - o You cannot structure your finances to fit your own needs, then see what is left to give God.
- **Tithes are Paid**
 - o The first belongs to the Lord, *no man may consecrate it*
 - o You cannot "give" what already belongs to God
 - o A tithe cannot be "given/offered": a tithe is paid (like rent due)
 - o Anything beyond the tithe is ours, and we can offer or give it to God

Mal 3:8 *"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.*

- **Tithes and offerings=** two different things
- Notice God says they are robbing God; holding on to what was not theirs to keep, because it already belonged to God.

Misused Scriptures

Majority of scriptures people use when referring to tithing- actually referring to giving beyond a tithe; or an offering. You can tell by the language being used.

- **Duet. 16:17-** *Every man shall give as he is able.*
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-8-** *Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Leviticus 27:30 *“Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord.*

- Tithes are paid to God
 - it was collected in the temple- but it’s not paid to the temple
 - Tithes are paid to God- because it belongs to Him

Lev 27:27 *‘But if it is among the unclean animals, then he shall redeem it according to your valuation and add to it one-fifth of it; and if it is not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to your valuation.*

- You can redeem the first born by paying its value and adding 1/5 to it
 - **Leviticus 27:12**- Priests determined the value

Lev 27:28 *‘Nevertheless, anything which a man sets apart to the LORD out of all that he has, of man or animal or of the fields of his own property, shall not be sold or redeemed. Anything devoted to destruction is most holy to the LORD.*

- Anything a man sets apart- This isn’t talking about a tithe- but an offering
- Once you have devoted it to God, consecrated it to God, set it apart to God
 - It is God’s; and no longer belongs to you, you cannot redeem it

Leviticus 27:30 *“Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord.*

Leviticus 27:32 *“For every tenth part of heard or flock, whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord”.*

- God gets his portion first; and these verses tell us how much that portion is
 - God requires a tithe, or a tenth
 - God requires every tenth that passes under the rod

WHAT DID GOD DO WITH THE TITHE? Numbers 18:24

- It was given from God to the Levites as their inheritance
- This was God’s way of taking care of those who performed the temple service
- **Numbers 18:25-32**- God instructs even the Levites to pay a tithe
 - No one was excused from the tithe- even those who benefited from it
 - Why? Because it was not paid to the Levites, but paid to God

TITHING IN NEW TESTAMENT

- Tithing did not originate with the O.T. law
 - o **Genesis 14:18-20**- Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedek
 - o **Genesis 28:21-22**- Jacob paid a tithe
 - o We see tithing before, during, and after the law

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 *Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? 14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.*

- **V 13**- Paul refers to manner in which those who served in temple were provided for
 - o WE know- Levites made living by tithe that people were required to pay
 - o God did not leave their wellbeing up to a free- will offering of the people
- **V 14: "so also" "the Lord Directed"**
 - o Rendered: "in this very same manner" or "in exactly this same way"
 - o Paul writes: "The Lord Directed" Means: Ordained or commanded
- In exact same manner Levites were taken care of- God has commanded (ordained) that those who proclaim the Gospel today be taken care of.

Levites were taken care of from the tithe that was commanded to be given

- If those who proclaim gospel today are to be taken care of in the exact same manner- then God still commands a tithe to be paid by his people in N.T.