

LESSON 6 THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Memory Verse: Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

1. Foundational scriptures (Malachi 3:8-12).
 - a. A statement of fact: tithes and offerings are a means by which God gives to us!
 - (1) Definition: Tithe -a tenth part; thus 10%.
 - (a) Emphasis: the tithe belongs to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30).
2. Examining the principle.
 - a. "Bring ye all the tithes..." (Malachi 3:10).
 - (1) Not most of the tithes, not most of the time; but, all the tithes, all the time!
 - (a) "Honor the Lord with ... the first fruits of all thine increase" (Proverbs 3 :9-10).
 - b. "...into the storehouse ... " (Malachi 3:10).
 - (1) Old Covenant: into the tabernacle/temple; because the presence of God was there, and the priests and Levites ministered there.
 - (2) New Covenant: the temple of God is the body of Christ (Ephesians 2:19-22).
 - (a) The tithe should be brought into the body of Christ where you fellowship and receive ministry.
 - c. " ... that there may be meat in mine house..." (Malachi 3:10).
 - (1) Meat (provision).
 - d. " ... and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts..." (Malachi 3:10).
 - (1) God is commanding us to put his Word to the test!
 - (a) Nowhere else are we commanded to test God (Matthew 4:7).
3. Examining the benefits.
 - a. "...if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing ... " (Malachi 3 :10).
 - (1) " ... that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).
 - b. "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes... " (Malachi 3: 11).
 - (1) Who is the devourer? (1 Peter 5:8).
4. Offerings.
 - a. That which is given over and above the tithe.
 - (1) The offering belongs to you! You give it as you purpose in your own heart (2 Corinthians 9 :7).
 - (2) God's plan for use (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

LESSON 6 THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS WORKSHEET

1. When God gave Abraham victory in battle, what did Abraham give back to God's priest, Melchizedek? (Genesis 14:20)
2. How did God in turn deal with Abraham?
3. What four things did Jacob want God to do for him? (Genesis 28:20)
4. What did Jacob promise to give God in return? (Genesis 28:22)
5. How did God in turn deal with Jacob? (Genesis 33:11)
6. What two things does Christ tell people to seek before all other things? (Matthew 6:33)
7. According to Jesus, what results does Christ promise will then follow? (Matthew 6:33)
8. When we give, with what measure will it be given back to us? (Luke 6:38)
9. If we wish to reap bountifully, what must we do first? (2 Corinthians 9:6)
10. From what kind of people will God withhold no good thing? (Psalm 84:11)

PERSONAL REFLECTION: How is God's plan for our finances different from that of the world?