

Discipleship 103

Stewardship & financial freedom

Lesson Seven: Stewardship of Our Possessions

Today's lesson begins with discussion on the principle of tithing. Tithing accomplishes the following:

- Tithing acknowledges God as the source and owner of all that we possess.
- Tithing is a voluntary act of worship.
- Tithing teaches us to put God first.
- Tithing is a practical guideline for systematic giving.
- Tithing provides spiritual release and blessings.

Tithing, an Old Testament measure for giving, is a good beginning point for a faithful and dedicated steward. Although as Christians we are not under the Law but under grace, as Dr. J. B. Gabrell declared, "It is unthinkable from the standpoint of the cross that anyone would give less under grace than the Jews gave under Law." Measuring their giving by the grace of the cross and not by the legalism of the Law, the early Christians did not limit themselves to the tithe. They gave much more; and they gave in the Spirit of Christ as a demonstration of His pre-eminence in their lives and to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Money—The Old Testament Standard

1. How much is a tithe (Genesis 14:20)?
2. What did God command those under the Law of Moses to do (Malachi 3:8-10)?
3. What would say is "the storehouse" (Deuteronomy 12:5-6, 11)?

Money—The New Testament Standard

Stewardship: Lesson Seven

- 1. As mentioned earlier, Christians are under grace rather than the Old Testament Law. Whereas the Law in itself did not provide eternal life for those who attempted to keep it (Galatians 2:16), we have received life by the favor of God (grace) though we do not deserve it and could not possibly earn it. Therefore, do we have a higher or lower motivation and standard for stewardship of our possessions than those under the Law?**

- 2. How did Jesus regard a person's responsibility in that area of stewardship (Matthew 23:23)?**

- 3. Read 2 Corinthians 8-9. In this passage, Paul attempts to encourage the Corinthian church to give financially to help needy Christians. He first points them to the example of the Macedonian church.**
 - (A) What was the attitude of the Macedonians in giving their money to God (2 Corinthians 8:2-5)?**

 - (B) In light of this, what do you think God is interested in?**

 - (C) Nevertheless, why is giving money an important part of our Christian life (2 Corinthians 8:7; 9:12-13)?**

 - (D) In what sense does the one who "sows" (gives) sparingly reap sparingly (2 Corinthians 9:6)?**

 - (E) What kind of attitude does God want you to have in giving (2 Corinthians 9:7)?**

(F) When is it hard for you to give that way?

God's Priority for Missions

- 1. Who is the great example of giving (2 Corinthians 8:9)?**

- 2. In your own words, summarize the last command Jesus gave His disciples as it relates to Missions (Matthew 28:19, 20).**

- 3. Oswald Smith said, "If you see ten men carrying a heavy log, nine of them on one end and one man struggling to carry the other, which end would most need your help? The end with the only one man." This illustrates how inequitably the evangelized nations have been using their resources to help fulfill the Great Commission.**

(A) What percentage of your giving is going to overseas missions?

(B) To home missions?

Other Possessions

- 1. To whom do you and your possessions belong (Psalm 24:1, 50:12)?**

- 2. What should be your motive in the use of whatever you possess (1 Corinthians 10:31)?**

Life Application

- 1. What is your understanding about tithing?**
- 2. What is the difference between “giving” and “tithing”?**
- 3. Which one describes your practice and why?**
- 4. Ask yourself, “Is my heart attitude one of joy and gratefulness as I give?” How do you express your attitude?**