

LESSON 21

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Required Bible Reading:

Malachi 3:8-12

Hebrews 7:8-9

Luke 6:38

Genesis 4:1-8

Luke 3:10-11

Mark 12:41-44

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Is it possible to rob God? In Malachi 3:8-12, God said, “You have robbed me.” You might ask, “How can I rob God?” The Bible says we have robbed Him in tithes and offerings. The giving of tithes and offerings was instituted by God and the word **tithe** means **ten percent**. Ten percent of everything we receive belongs to God. It’s not because God needs anything! The streets in heaven are paved with gold! He did it as a way to bless us!

The way we rob God, is by not tithing and giving to God. We rob him of the opportunity to bless us. Under the Old Testament law, God said if all the tithes and offerings were brought into the store house, He would in turn open the windows of heaven and pour them out a blessing that they could not contain. He also said He would rebuke the devourer for their sakes.

God is concerned with the condition of your heart. In the beginning of the Bible, we see that Cain and Abel brought an offering to God. The Bible tells us that God did not respect Cain and his offering, but He did respect Abel and his offering. The reason for this is because God looks at the condition of the heart first. He was looking at Cain’s heart before looking at the offering. However, Cain already had sin lying at the door. We see that he did not master the sin, rather it mastered him and he ended up killing his brother Abel. Jesus said in *Matthew 5:23-24*, that if you are bringing an offering to the Lord and you have something against your brother, you are to leave your gift, go and reconcile yourself to your brother, then come and offer your gift.

You may be thinking, well I don’t have anything I can give to God, I have no income. Giving to God is more than giving money. All of us have twenty-four hours in a day. We can give God a tenth of our day in studying and meditating in the Word and praying. We can give a tenth of our time to pray for the needs of others.

When the money does come in, we can then give to God by helping those around us that are in need. Jesus said when we have done it to the least of these, we have done it unto Him.

You might be thinking that tithing is out of the question when you're in jail. The jail bars do not block God from your life! It doesn't matter if you're behind them, you can still bless others with what God has given you. You need to give God something to work with. Something He can use to bless you.

Jesus used this incident to teach his disciples about giving. Jesus was sitting by the treasury watching people as they put in their offerings and a widow caught his eye as she put in two mites, that's all she had. Others were giving out of their wealth. Jesus said this woman gave more than all the others because she gave out of her want, while they gave out of their abundance.

We have to give something first before men can give to us. In ***Luke 6:38*** Jesus said, ***give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure you mete it shall be measured to you again.*** If we give with a good attitude, men will give to us with a good attitude. The Bible says God loves a cheerful giver.

Each one of us should purpose in our heart what we're going to give. God is the one who gives us seed to sow and He increases our seed sown. Even in the natural, the farmer always harvests more than he plants. God gives the increase. ***Isaiah 55*** tells us that God gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater. If we are not sowing what we have, then God is not going to trust us with more to sow. Sowing and reaping is a Kingdom principle. God said, as long as the earth remains there will be seed time and harvest, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Is tithing only an Old Testament principle? Tithing is a God principle that applies to all of us, even in today's world. ***Hebrews 7:8-9*** talks about how Levi received tithes but he also paid tithes to Abraham. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, King of Salem and the High Priest. The Bible goes on to tell us that here, men that die receive tithes, but there He receives them, speaking of the Lord, who is now our High Priest. Today, we still bring our tithes into the storehouse, which is the local church you attend faithfully. That's how churches are sustained. Once your tithe is given in the local church, you no longer have a say as to what the Pastor does with it. He is accountable to God to be a wise steward of what God has entrusted him with.

Print name here: _____ **Date:** _____

TEST- LESSON 21

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

1. Tithing is giving 10% of _____

2. Where giving is concerned, God is concerned with the _____ of your heart.

3. Jesus said give and it shall be given unto you.
How? _____

4. God loves a _____ giver.

True or False

5. Tithing benefits the one who tithes. _____T _____F

6. Tithing is under the law of the Old Testament,
so it does not apply to me today. _____T _____F

7. Tithing is God's way of blessing us. _____T _____F

8. God wants us to tithe because he needs our finances. _____T _____F

9. You can begin by giving from what you have,
even if you have no money. _____T _____F

10. God had respect for Cain's gift because he liked
Cain more than Abel. _____T _____F