

Jesus the Generous One part 3
April 29, 2012

PROP- Jesus, the Generous One, calls us to join Him in financial generosity.

- **“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)**
- NOTE: Exceeds O.T. “extra scoop” fairness→ overflowing; this “better covenant” is an “above and beyond” covenant!
- **As we are faithful and generous with what we have, “more will be given; and he will have an abundance” (Matthew 13:12)**
- **As we live the lifestyle of a “sower” (generously investing)—he will supply “seed” and “food”—increasing “your store of seed” and “enlarging the harvest of your righteousness” (2 Corinthians 9:10)**
- **Results (2 Corinthians 9:11):**
 - You will have more than enough on every occasion
 - You will experience increase in gifts BOTH financial and spiritual (*Luke 16:10-13*)
 - Your generosity results in an increase of “thanksgiving to God” (breaks the spirit of despair)

MALACHI 3:8-11 [*TITHE and OFFERING are expressions of financial generosity*]

TITHE- means “one-tenth”

- **First mentioned in Genesis 14:18-20 as Abraham gave a “tithe” to Melchizedek, the king of Salem. Pre-dated O.T. Levitical law—Abraham gave his first and best to this King/Priest as an expression of his heart**
- **Malachi 3:8-11. Tithing results in:**
 - God “opening the windows of Heaven” (revelation)
 - “Pouring out blessings” (provision)
 - “Rebuking the devourer” (protection)
- **“The storehouse”—entrusted to the leadership in the local church community where we are fed, equipped, and function together in corporate ministry**
- ***“Giving a tithe shows that we trust our leadership. When we are not willing to give a tithe, we begin (even without knowing it) to sow seeds of distrust. Tithing is a test of trust—trust in God and trust in those God has placed in spiritual leadership in our lives.” -Larry Kreider***

OFFERING- gifts given beyond the tithe

- Giving to people in need and to ministries beyond our local church family
- Proverbs 11:24- “One gives away—and still grows richer; Another keeps what he should give, and is the poorer.”
- Proverbs 11:25- “He that rains shall himself become a river”
- (The Message) “The world of the generous gets larger and larger; The world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.”

WHAT DID JESUS SAY RE: TITHING

- SEE Matthew 23:23. Jesus did not discard “tithing” as an O.T. practice. He encouraged the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees to continue tithing (“w/o neglecting the former”)—but to do so without neglecting “justice, mercy, & faithfulness”.
- We have a “better covenant” with “better promises” (Hebrews 8:6)
- Jesus did not come to “abolish the Law and the Prophets...but to fulfill (*cram full of life*) them” (Matthew 5:17)
- Jesus quoted in Acts 20:35- “More blessed to give than to receive” (NOTE: This is not merely speaking of a “personal blessing kick-back”—it refers to a multiplying of blessing for all—a contagious atmosphere of generosity)
- In the context of addressing financial worries, Jesus said: “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33) A daily determination to give Him our first and our best—time, money, decisions—never an afterthought. He wants us to want Him—more than anything else.
- Paul’s advice RE: giving: “On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1 Corinthians 16:2)

RESPONSE

Generous house. Generous history. Let’s leave an increasingly generous legacy.