

LESSON NO. 14

DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

DISCIPLESHIP
LESSONS FOR
YOUNG ADULTS

 **vangelism**
mesoamerica

TITHE
TITHE



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MAGDIEL MARTÍNEZ

Biblical Basis: Genesis 14:17-24

Text to memorize: 1 Corinthians 16:2

PURPOSE

To teach, from a biblical perspective, about the blessing of tithing, what it consists of, and how to become a good holistic steward.

REAL LIFE STORY

Someone once said that there are Christians who were baptized but who did not allow their wallets to be baptized, since they are not willing to give of their finances for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, they always have an excuse, when someone wants to teach them about the issue of finances and the Kingdom of God turn a deaf ear or become offended.

We must recognize that the subject of tithes is one that stirs up disputes. Until a few years ago tithe was seen as a duty and this way of conceiving it was helped by the way the subject was taught; "God asks you to tithe, 90% is yours, but that 10% belongs to God." Generally, this teaching was based on the indications of the books of Leviticus, Deuteronomy, or the book of the prophet Malachi, but why would we give the tithe?

There is a rule that helps us interpret the Bible, it is the rule of the first mention, when we apply this rule to the subject of tithe, we get a great surprise. The first time the subject of tithing appears in the Bible is in the book of Genesis. Studying this passage and how the practice of tithing started broke the popular myth that "tithing is from the law of Moses." Another myth that was broken was that "10% is God's and the other 90% is yours", since the testimony that we find in the Bible is that everything, including 10%, 90%, and ourselves, belong to God.

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

Read Genesis 14:17-24.

Verses 1 through 16 tell us that there was a war between 9 kings, 4 against 5 of them. One of those kings was the king of Sodom, a land where Lot, Abram's nephew, had come to live as a negative result of the war. Lot was taken captive by the victorious kings, so Abram, hearing the news, went to the rescue of his nephew, faced the armies that had triumphed in war and defeated them, freeing Lot, and his family, bringing along with them the spoils of victory. On his return, Abram meets Melchizedek (king of Salem and priest of the Highest God) and gives him tithes of the spoils of war. This is the first mention of the subject of tithes, we should note some things that are key:

- a) The tithe is not a matter of law, it is in fact a practice prior to the law of Moses.
- b) The tithe is a token of gratitude for the blessings received, in Abram's case it was the victory in this war that was uneven.
- c) The tithe is offered to God but given to the one who represents Him on earth, in the case of Abram he gave it to Melchizedek.

Read Genesis 28:10-22.

Now we have Abram's grandson; Jacob, whose name means trickster or usurper, since he stole the blessing of his brother Esau from him, who had sold his blessing for a bowl of lentils. Now Jacob is on his way to visit his mother's family, but is forced to pause as night has come, he sleeps in a place called "light", which he later called "Beth-el", there he had a dream in which God Himself revealed to him and gave him a promise, to give him a great progeny, the land in which he was and that would extend to the four cardinal points of the earth, God would accompany him until the promise had been fulfilled. Upon awakening he recognized that this place was special and made a pact with God; "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Once again, we note that tithing is not a matter of the law, it is a matter of the heart. Jacob had received God's promise and tells Him; "Lord, if You bless me, I will respond in gratitude, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

As we have seen, tithing is not a matter of law, even though we can go to the book of Leviticus or Deuteronomy and find instructions on the subject.

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

- 1 Corinthians 16:2



BIBLICAL SUPPORT



“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.” (Malachi 3:6-12)

According to Malachi 3:6-12, what is the only way we can test God?

What is the result when we are faithful in our tithes and offerings?

Jehovah is claiming His people who have robbed Him because they have not given their tithes and offerings, He calls them to be good stewards of what He has provided for them. Let us remember that we give 10% to God and we keep 90%, and that we also give because from Him we receive, we do it with joy and gladness, and by doing so we will have a blessing, as Malachi says in verse 11.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

According to 2 Corinthians 9:7, how should we give to God?

What does it mean to you to tithe and do it with joy?



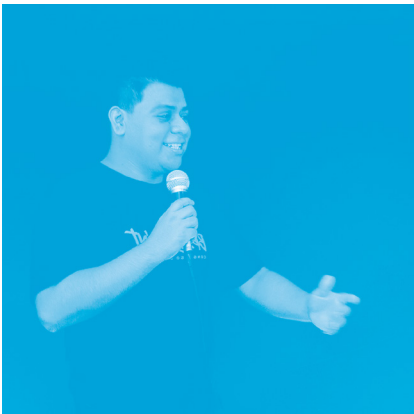
REFLECTION

The question is not; should we tithe? Rather we must ask ourselves; is there gratitude in our hearts? Has God blessed us?

Every human being on earth receives God's blessing every day, but not all of us are grateful to Him.

What have been the top 3 blessings you have received from God this week?

How do you express your gratitude?



PRACTICE

This week let's put this spiritual habit into practice in relation to our finances.
Make a covenant with God.

Lord, if you bless me, with a grateful heart I will set aside the tithe and the offering for you,
investing in the advancement of your Kingdom on earth.

**As received \$ _____ I will take the tenth part \$ _____
and one more portion \$ _____ to take to you, my God.**