

GIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN – PART 2
(VARIOUS SCRIPTURES)

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday we began to look at giving according to God's plan. We began by looking at four categories in which we must think about money and in which the Bible talks about money. Those four categories are: (1) How we feel about money; (2) How we earn money; (3) How we spend money; and (4) How we give money. Scripture has quite a bit to say about money, but by far, it speaks more about giving money than any of the other three categories and that is really the topic upon which we want to spend the majority of our time. We also spent some time looking at the idea of tithing or of giving 10 percent. From the offering of Cain and Abel to the offering of Jacob we saw that each was a freewill gift. We never found a command by God to give, nor an amount that was to be given. In every case it is a freewill offering.

When I began to speak about giving as seen before Moses and the Law, I said there were two types of giving, required giving and freewill giving. So far, we have only seen freewill giving in this first period. This morning we will look at required giving before Moses and we only have one instance of it.

I. REQUIRED GIVING BEFORE MOSES

- a. So up to this point in the time period before Moses all that we have seen is _____ giving.
- b. We are still in Genesis, and we will begin in Genesis 41. This is an event that takes place in the life of _____.
- c. Joseph is called before Pharaoh and hears Pharaoh's dreams and God gives Joseph the interpretation. (Genesis 41:34)
- d. Joseph told Pharaoh to exact a _____, 20 percent, and that is still about the rate of taxation for the middle class in America today, 20 to 25 percent. (Genesis 47:24)
- e. This is what we have learned in the time period from _____ to Moses.
 1. _____ giving is directed toward the Lord.
 2. _____ giving goes to a nation's government.

II. REQUIRED GIVING UNDER THE LAW

- a. During this second time period, the _____ became a familiar term.
- b. Let me show you how that is not biblically _____. (Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:21-29)
- c. Now this was not an _____, this teaches that this belonged to the Lord. (Malachi 4:8-12)
- d. This is not the only tithe in Israel, there was a second tithe called the _____ tithe. (Deuteronomy 12:17-18)
- e. In Deuteronomy 14 we find a _____ tithe. (Deuteronomy 14:28-29)
- f. If you were an Israelite, you were not _____ yet, and we saw this in the book of Ruth. (Leviticus 19:9-10)
- g. Ten percent is a long way from what it _____ the Israelite to exist within the theocracy of Israel.

III. FREEWILL GIVING UNDER THE LAW

- a. We talked about the _____ when we were in the book of Ruth. (Proverbs 3:9-10)
- b. God promises to Israel were fulfilled _____.
- c. Proverbs gives us the principle of _____ for the one who gives from the heart. (Proverbs 11:24-25)
- d. Let me quickly show you how it _____. (Exodus 25:1-2; 35:4-9, 29; 36:4-7)
- e. When people believe in the ministry, when they believe what you are doing exalts God, they _____ from a willing heart, and they give too much.
- f. This is not just an isolated incident, the same thing happened when David was preparing to build the _____. (1 Chronicles 29:9, 16)

CONCLUSION:

We have gone through the first two time periods in the history of giving. We have learned that tithing was taxation for the theocracy, the government of Israel. We don't live in a theocracy,

but our government is still ordained by God. Do you believe that it is God who controls our government and causes the rising and falling of those in authority? Our government is ordained by God. We are required to pay taxes, and our tax rate is about what the Israelites paid in tithes, remember about 25 percent and we are right around there especially when you add sales tax and property tax and all the other taxes we pay. We are not far off from what God originally instituted as the basics of taxation. This is not giving. Don't get stuck at the tenth, and I am saying this to you as much as I am saying it to me. I must learn not be legalistic about giving. Instead, I need to listen to the Spirit of God to give abundantly, to sow or scatter bountifully that I may reap bountifully.

Next week we will look at giving according to God's plan in the New Testament. The final time period in the history of giving, from Jesus to the present. I trust the Lord has spoken to your heart this morning.