

GIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN – PART 1

INTRODUCTION:

As promised last week we are going to be talking about giving according to God's plan this morning and the next two Sundays. To speak about giving according to God's plan, I will be dealing with the subject of money. I know this subject is one that most people do not want to hear from the pulpit, but the truth is the Bible has quite a bit to say about it. We are called to be stewards of all that God has given us, and that includes our money. This morning we will begin looking at God's plan for giving in the Old Testament. I trust that once we have finished this series concerned with giving, we will walk away with a much better understanding of giving according to God's plan.

When we talk about money and the decisions that we must make concerning money and our stewardship of it, when we boil it down it basically falls into four categories. First, how we feel about money. Second, how we earn money. Third, how we spend money. And fourth, how we give money. We are going to look at the first three of these four categories briefly this morning and then begin to look at God's plan for giving in the Old Testament.

I. FOUR CATEGORIES CONCERNING MONEY

- a. Let's begin this morning by briefly looking at the first three categories of the _____.
- b. The fourth being how we _____ our money which we will spend the majority of our time on.
- c. The first category is how we _____ about money. (1 Timothy 6:10, 17; Matthew 6:24)
- d. Instead of seeking to be _____, we should seek to honor God. (1 Timothy 6:9)
- e. The second category is how we _____ money. (Psalm 37:21; Amos 8:5; Hosea 12:7; James 5:4)
- f. So, how are we to get _____? (Matthew 25; Exodus 34:21; Proverbs 28:9; 14:23)
- g. The third category is how we spend our money. (1 Timothy 5:8; 1 John 3:17; Romans 13:8; Proverbs 30:25; 21:20)

- h. The fourth category is how we _____ our money which is what we want to focus on for the rest of this message and the next two. (1 John 3:11-24)

II. GIVING

- a. When it comes to _____, we must do a balancing act of trusting God, investing with God, and keeping what we need to supply our family for the present and the future.
- b. Now don't get me wrong, I am not _____ this principle.
- c. What is _____ with this idea of tithing, of giving 10 percent?
- d. Let's at least begin looking at _____ according to God's plan.

III. GIVING BEFORE MOSES

- a. Let's begin by looking at giving before _____ before the Law was given.
- b. As I mentioned before the term "_____" simply means a tenth part, and we will find it used in the book of Genesis.
- c. The Bible does not institute tithing in _____. (Genesis 3:3-4)
- d. The next _____, we read about is in Genesis 8, after the flood. (Genesis 8:20)
- e. The next offering is offered by _____ in Genesis 12, and it is in response to God's call on Abraham's life and the promises given to him by God. (Genesis 12:7; 13:18)
- f. When we come to Genesis 14, we have the first mention of the _____. (Genesis 14:19-20)
- g. Now go to Genesis 28, and here we have the use of the word tithe again and it has to do with _____. (Genesis 28:22)

CONCLUSION:

We have just begun to look at giving according to God's plan. This morning very briefly we look at the four categories regarding the stewardship we have concerning what God has given, and specifically this morning, the money He has given us. We looked at how we feel about money, how we earn money, how we spend money, and fourth

how we give money. This fourth category will be our topic for the next couple of weeks. Then we began to look at this idea of tithe or the giving of ten percent. As we began to go through the book of Genesis exploring God's plan for giving before Moses and the Law, we discovered that there was no command to give, no amount was given that those who lived before Moses were obligated to give. Instead, every offering that we looked at was voluntary, many times it was the grateful response to something God had done or promised. Even in the two instances when a tithe was mentioned, the amount was the arbitrary choice of the one giving the offering. In both instances it was a one-time offering and not something that was done annually, and in the case of Abraham it was only a tithe of the spoil he had taken in battle, not a tithe of all he had. So up to this point giving has been up to the giver and it was done voluntarily and without obligation and it is done out of a heart of gratitude. Next week we will move on and finish up the section of the Old Testament of giving before Moses and then we will begin to look at the section from Moses to Jesus which will finish up the Old Testament, and Lord willing, we will even begin the New Testament section. My charge to you this week is to go back over the Scriptures I gave to see if what I have said the morning is biblical. Then ask yourself, if you tithe, if it is done out of obligation and when you have given your ten percent you feel that you are done? My challenge is to ask yourself if you could do more?