



Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas

Passion ♦ Prayer ♦ Peace

To Tithe Or Not To Tithe?

Pastor Mark DeYmaz, July 2005

Observations

- I. Early on in my faith, I heard a story of a man who tried, but couldn't out give God
I was intrigued then and am still with the concept of financial giving.
- II. At different points I have given everything away; at other times, I have been somewhat reluctant to give in light of my own needs, situation, etc.
Does this sound like you?
- III. This series is entitled, ***Blessed to Bless***
 - A. Talk 1 - **We are not the owners but the stewards of those things that God has given and entrusted to us for a season.**
 - B. Talk 2 - **We are to use such things to further the Kingdom on earth.** Invest in Kingdom work; store up for ourselves treasures in heaven and do not be anxious for what we will eat, drink or clothe ourselves with, etc. *"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all the rest will be added unto you," (Matthew 6:33)*
 - C. Talk 3: **The Tithe: What is it and how we are to live in light of Biblical commands and precedence.**
- IV. Ultimately, the question is, ***How often and how much should I give?***

The Tithe - simply defined, a tenth portion (10%)

- I. Clearly an OT commandment
- II. Five Old Testament highlights re. the tithe
 - A. An act of worship
Abram to Melchizedek, Genesis 14:18-20
 - B. An act of obedience
"All the tithe of the land ... is the Lord's," Leviticus 27:30
 - C. Provides for the priests and their ministry
"To the sons of Levi I have given all the tithe," Numbers 18:21
 - D. Provides for the alien, orphan and widow
"Bring out all the tithe ... (and these) shall be satisfied," Deut. 14:28-30
 - E. An act of faith with a promise of blessing
"Test Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts," Malachi 3:8-10

Now I want you to know something ...

- III. **The tithe is not specifically commanded/standardized in the NT!**
 - A. To impose it requires theological gymnastics;
 - B. Calls into question the motives of those who would otherwise impose it.
 - C. Having said that, however, we must not dismiss it entirely in light of all that we have just seen in the OT.

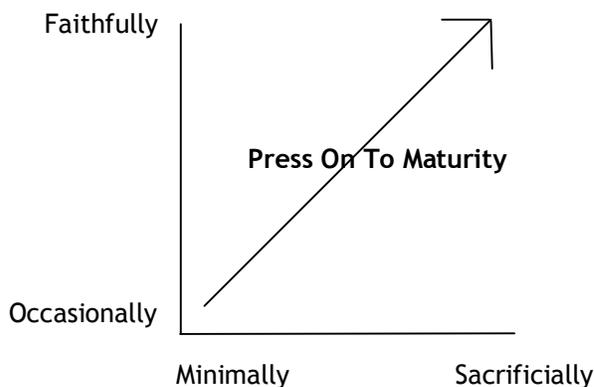
What does the OT prescribe in regards to giving?

See below ...

Ten New Testament principles re. our giving

- A. **We are to give God's will for us priority over money**
Rich Young Ruler, Matthew 19:16-26
- B. **We are to give sacrificially and not simply from our surplus**
The widow's mite, Mark 12:41-44
- C. **We are to give in support of those who proclaim the Kingdom**
The ministering women, Luke 8:1-3
- D. **We are to give to God all that He asks of us, not just a portion of it**
Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:1-11
- E. **We are to give through our local church in support of various needs**
The church at Antioch takes up a collection for famine relief, Acts 11:29-30
- F. **We are to give according to our ability and beyond**
The churches of Macedonia gave from affliction and poverty, 2 Cor. 8:1-5
- G. **We are to see giving as a privilege**
The churches of Macedonia begged to support the saints, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- H. **We are to give generously**
"He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly ...," 2 Corinthians 9:6
- I. **We are to give purposefully as God directs us individually to do**
"Let each one do as He has purposed in his heart," 2 Corinthians 9:7
- J. **We are to give cheerfully**
"God loves a cheerful giver," 2 Corinthians 9:7

So how should I give?



Conclusions

- A. Preachers who impose the tithe have had time to get there.
Indeed, man looks at the outward appearance, but God sees the heart.
- B. No matter how much you give currently, consider a next step forward (increased giving) with a desire to press on in faith and sacrifice before God!
- C. You should pray and seek God's will for you (give purposefully) and obey Him no matter what He tells you to do.
- D. Faithful and sacrificial giving by faith, being stretched to depend on God, etc., this is what the Lord requires!
- E. Ultimately, God doesn't want giving to be for us so much a duty as it is a desire.
*Not so much law as liberty;
Not so much an obligation; it should be seen by us a privilege.*