



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

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4) Leading people into financial freedom

10 Lessons on how leaders can help their people apply biblical financial wisdom

Part 4: FINANCE AND LORDSHIP - Part 2

How do we make sure that we keep Jesus as the master of our money?

Example: Old Testament Law made it simple - by giving to God 10% of all your income. Most have heard about the concept of **tithing**.

Does this apply to the New Testament?

- To take something from the OT to the NT you always have to take it through Jesus
- **Some things stop at the Cross** - clean and unclean meats - Jesus declared that it is not the outside that makes us unclean but what comes from our hearts. Jesus declared that all foods are clean. It stopped at the Cross.
- **Some things pass through Jesus and are fulfilled in Jesus and take on a deeper meaning in the NT** - from murder to a heart of anger. From the Sabbath being a day of rest from work to Jesus being our rest from works.

So what about tithing?

Deut 12: (NIV) 6 there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

Tithe was 10% of your crops or firstborn of the animals

- Jesus was firstborn Son of God who was offered as a sacrifice on our behalf
- **The Law was fulfilled in Christ** - in Christ my tithe has been legally paid

So if it is not about Law, should we leave tithing behind?

Leave tithing behind as a source of righteousness

- But there is a way of God in tithing that is still life giving

1 Samuel 8:10-17 (NIV)

10 Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. 11 He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights:.... 15 He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. 17 He will take a tenth of your flocks...

BIG IDEA: The Israelites wanted a king like the other nations and so God reminds them what a king does - he takes 10% of your grain and flocks

So tithing was not unique to Israel

- Tithing was the tribute or tax you brought to the king
- **What was unique about Israel was that it was given to God and his priests and not an earthly king**
- The people of that day knew that 10% went to the king

Abraham knew this:

Genesis 14:14-20 (NIV)

17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Creator of heaven and earth.

20 And praise be to God Most High,

who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Picture the two kings:

- King of Sodom representing the systems of the world - money is your master
- King of Salem representing Jesus - Jesus is your master

Why did Abraham give a 10% - because he knew that you brought your tribute to your king

Which king did he give it to? - the King of Salem not Sodom

Example of Jacob after encountering God at Bethel:

Genesis 28:20-22 (NIV)

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “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 21 so that I return safely to my father's household, then the

LORD will be my God 22 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.”

Jacobs response to the Lordship of God was to give him a tenth

- It was the customary response to a king

BIG IDEA: They didn’t have the Law. They used tithing to make a prophetic declaration

- I recognise the source of my blessing as the Creator of Heaven and Earth
- I recognise my deliverer and protector as God most high
- I choose God most High as my King and give him 10%

CONCLUSION: Tithing is not about Law. It is about Lordship

So on the New Testament - It is a prophetic declaration that my Master and Lord is Jesus

- I proclaim that Jesus is the source and provider of all
- I proclaim that Jesus is my deliverer and protector
- I use my money to proclaim who my master is

PRACTICAL:

- I recommend you make this a spiritual goal for all followers of Jesus - **not a Law but a prophetic declaration of lordship**
- It must be built on faith in Jesus as the Source and Jesus as the Deliverer - not on fear and Law. **This will make you a cheerful giver and not a fearful giver.**
- It is a sacrifice and takes courage to start but let me lovingly warn you - either we offer our tithe in faith to Jesus as master. **Or money always seems to find a way to take it from you - your tenth always ends up in the hands of your true master.**

YOUR TURN:

1. What has been your experience with tithing in the past - positive or negative?
2. Does it make sense to you that tithing should not longer be seen as Law but Lordship? How does this make

you feel?

- 3. What is your response to this word based on the financial position you find yourself right now?