



LESSON 4: GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

A LEGACY OF SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT AWAITS THOSE WHO WOULD STEWARD RIGHTEOUSLY.



When taken as a guiding principle more so than a “point of Law” to argue, giving a tithe thus becomes an exciting, wonderful act of worship, not a duty.

• Offerings. 1 Chron 29:3, 1Cor 16:2, 2 Cor 8:3

Training our heart to do “more than what’s expected” shows an understanding of Philippians 2 (NIV): “And being found in appearance as a man, [Jesus] humbled himself by becoming obedient unto death – even death on a cross!” Whereas the faithful giving of our tithe reflects our obedience to the Father, “over and above” gifts evidence our desire to mirror His example of selfless generosity.

• First-fruits. Prov 3.9, Lev 19.24, Num18.12-13, Exod 23.16, 19

As different from both tithes and offerings, the passages above how a ‘first-fruits’ gift is all about understanding that we’ve been redeemed! This faith-filled gesture surrenders the initial “fruit” of our efforts or labor; we give it with great anticipation of what God will do in the harvest season that follows. (iv)

• Thanksgiving. Ps 100.4, Phil 4.6, 1 Thess 5.16

Giving thanks enables us to “enter His gates,” sets the stage for our petitions, and helps answer the question of His will for our lives. Gratitude and humility are symbiotic; developing a heart full of one bears great dividends of the other.

• Sacrifice. 1 Chron 29

David’s lavish, sacrificial ‘pre-gift’ helped ensure his son could complete the vision he helped conceive. In full knowledge that his kingly wealth was not his to possess but rather to manage, he embraced the perspective, “What will I do without, so that you will not?” In verse 12 of this important passage, David sums up what his heart had known for years: “Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.”

• Submission. 2 Chron 24.1-14

This passage retells one of the earliest, most exciting examples of what today would be termed a “capital campaign.” Whether in Joash’s day or ours, the act of “getting on board” implies trust in local leadership and requires a heart that will defer to, and support, those making decisions. This is particularly relevant to the timing and direction of funds and resources – ESPECIALLY in those instances when we have other ideas / preferences / priorities. Submit where you are, or go where you can.

TALK ABOUT IT: What principles did the early church model for us?

Handwriting lines for notes





