

## IS THE TITHE RELEVANT FOR TODAY

### **A powerful statement made at the close of the Old Testament record**

*Malachi 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!" You ask: "How do we rob You?" "By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions (tithes and offerings).*

### **PRE-LAW**

#### **Cain brought an offering**

*Genesis 4:3 In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD.*

#### **Abraham paid the tithe (Abraham praised)**

*Hebrews 7:4 Now consider how great this man (Melchizedek) was-- even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the plunder to him!*

#### **Jacob made a vow to give a tenth**

*Genesis 28:22 This stone that I (Jacob) have set up as a marker will be God's house, and I will give to You a tenth of all that You give me."*

### **LAW**

#### **The tithe is made law**

*Leviticus 27:30 "Every tenth (tithe) of the land's produce, grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. <sup>31</sup> If a man decides to redeem any part of this tenth, he must add a fifth to its value. <sup>32</sup> Every tenth animal from the herd or flock, which passes under the shepherd's rod, will be holy to the LORD. . . " **34** These are the commands the LORD gave Moses for the Israelites on Mount Sinai.*

#### **The tithe allowed the priests to devote themselves to the Lord's Law**

**2 Chronicles 31:4** He told the people who lived in Jerusalem to give a contribution for the priests and Levites so that they could devote their energy to the law of the LORD.

### **POST-LAW / GRACE**

#### **Tithe Commended, wrong attitude condemned (see *Matthew 23:23*)**

*Luke 11:42 "But woe to you Pharisees! You give a tenth of mint, rue, and every kind of herb, and you bypass justice and love for God. These things you should have done without neglecting the others. (also *Matthew 23:23*)*

## **MONEY – THE SILENT KILLER**

### **The rich fool “eat, drink, and be merry” (selfish, not rich toward God)**

**Luke 12:16** Then He told them a parable: "A rich man's land was very productive. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What should I do, since I don't have anywhere to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> I will do this,' he said. 'I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there. <sup>19</sup> Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself." ' <sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared-- whose will they be? ' <sup>21</sup> "That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

### **The rich young ruler (camel and the needle's eye)**

**Luke 18:18** A ruler asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>19</sup> "Why do you call Me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good but One-- God. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and mother." <sup>21</sup> "I have kept all these from my youth," he said. <sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard this, He told him, "You still lack one thing: Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." <sup>23</sup> After he heard this, he became extremely sad, because he was very rich. <sup>24</sup> Seeing that he became sad, Jesus said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

### **Ananias and Sapphira (why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?)**

**Acts 5:1** But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup> However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> Then Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds from the field? <sup>4</sup> Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God!" <sup>5</sup> When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard. <sup>6</sup> The young men got up, wrapped his body, carried him out, and buried him. <sup>7</sup> There was an interval of about three hours; then his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> "Tell me," Peter asked her, "did you sell the field for this price?" "Yes," she said, "for that price." <sup>9</sup> Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!" <sup>10</sup> Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in, they found her dead, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband.

### **Judas – 30 pieces of silver**

#### **The price of a soul**

**Matthew 26:14** Then one of the Twelve-- the man called Judas Iscariot-- went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?" So they weighed out 30 pieces of silver for him.

#### **The kiss of betrayal**

**Matthew 26:46** Get up; let's go! See, My betrayer is near." <sup>47</sup> While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. A large mob, with swords and clubs, was with him from the chief priests and

elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> His betrayer had given them a sign: "The One I kiss, He's the One; arrest Him!" <sup>49</sup> So he went right up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. <sup>50</sup> "Friend," Jesus asked him, "why have you come?" Then they came up, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him.

### **The cost of greed**

**Matthew 27:3** Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was full of remorse and returned the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. <sup>4</sup> "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood," he said. "What's that to us?" they said. "See to it yourself!" <sup>5</sup> So he threw the silver into the sanctuary and departed. Then he went and hanged himself.

### **SHALL WE ROB GOD...**

**...both in the stealing of God's tithe AND various offerings. This indicates a lack of faith in God being able to supply for our needs according to His plan for our lives; a very serious charge.**

**Malachi 3:8** "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!" You ask: "How do we rob You?" "By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions. <sup>9</sup> You are suffering under a curse, yet you-- the whole nation-- are still robbing Me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this way," says the LORD of Hosts. "See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.