

## **Biblical Stewardship**

### **New Testament Stewardship**

In the New Testament, Jesus had much to say about stewardship. In fact, Jesus said more about money than about Heaven and Hell. The Lord Jesus Christ spent a full 15% of His recorded words on this one subject. He says more about giving and about our money and possessions than any other single thing. In His teachings, his parables and metaphors, Jesus makes it very clear that He is interested in our stewardship. This was the case in Mark 12:41-44\* as Jesus observed the offerings given by both the rich and the poor. He was interested in the widow's offering as much as He is interested in our offering today. After all, giving is an act of worship.

Worship is the recognition of God as the highest and the best and the opening of our hearts to Him. We do this when we pray, when we read the Bible and when we sing. We also do this when we give. As we make our offerings, we confess that God is absolute owner of all. We acknowledge that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. We open our hearts and hands to give; we open them to receive.

\*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44)

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### **Biblical References to Giving**

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Honor the Lord with your income, with the firstfruits of all your crops, then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring

your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty. Malachi 3:8-12

Then celebrate to the Lord by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord has given you. Deuteronomy 16:10

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Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 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. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

The tithe is the Lord's. Leviticus 27:30