

Sunday Leftovers

Sermon Title: Tithing Isn't What You Think It Is

What's this message about - We seem to have lost sight of the Biblical understanding of a Tithe. Contrary to popular thought, It's not about institutional support or tax deductions. In fact, the Biblical notion of a tithe is grounded in a sacrificial offering of thanksgiving to the God who has been and continues to provide for our well-being. Recovering this understanding of a tithe is critical for our spiritual health, fosters a sense of trust in God and encourages a biblical worldview in a way that few other things can. We don't tithe to keep doors to a building open. We tithe to acknowledge the overwhelmingly generous grace we have experienced from God through Jesus Christ.

Questions for discussion:

- *What do you think was the main point of Matt's message?*
- *When you hear the word "tithe" what does it mean to you?*
- *How does showing our gratitude for God's provisions and blessings benefit us, and those around us?*
- *What do you think are some obstacles that keep people from tithing? How can we help others overcome those obstacles?*

Do something about it: It is difficult in this current contract based society to not consider our resources as something we have worked for and earned. We believe that we are entitled to our earnings because we labored for them. What we tend to forget is that God also plays an active role in these and other opportunities and blessings we have been presented with. God's provision does not stop when our situation changes. In fact, God is that is usually when His presence becomes more evident., God is always working: sometimes overtly, sometimes covertly, to provide us with new relationships and new opportunities that, if we really examine them closely, clearly reveal His hand in the process. **This week, take some time to consider your resources and what part He might play in your being blessed in this area. Use this as an opportunity to thank Him (specifically and tangibly) for His provision and protection.**

Digging deeper: Genesis 14:17-20; 28:10-22; Leviticus 27:30; 2 Chronicles 31:1-6; Nehemiah 10:35-39; Malachi 3:10-12