

STEWARDSHIP

Outline #7 Honesty with God

1. Returning an honest tithe

- a) Leviticus 27:30, the tithe is holy to the LORD
- b) Long before Moses reminded the children of Israel regarding the tithe as holy to the LORD, patriarchs had returned tithes.
 - i) Genesis 14:18–20, Abram to Melchizedek (see also Hebrews 7:1-3)
 - ii) Genesis 28:10-22, promise of Jacob to God
- c) Malachi 3:8, what are your thoughts about the LORD's description of withholding an honest tithe as robbery?
- d) Malachi 3:9–10, a rebuke and a promised blessing
- e) Why is it still important to return an honest tithe to the Lord?
- f) How have you seen the Lord fulfill His promise to bless you as you have returned an honest tithe?

2. Honesty even with small matters

- a) How did Jesus respond to the religious leaders who were very careful about returning an honest tithe even on small increases in income? Matthew 23:23
- b) Doesn't it seem rather extreme to return a tithe on very small sources of income? Why is honesty important even in small matters? Luke 16:10b
- c) Imagine a friend saying to you, "I don't make enough money to pay my bills! How could I possible give ten percent of my income to God?" How would you respond?

3. Revival and reformation leads to faithfulness in returning tithes and offerings

Scripture Song: I Will Praise You, O LORD (Psalm 9:1-2)

- a) 2 Chronicles 29:1–2, revival and reformation in the reign of King Hezekiah
- b) 2 Chronicles 29:3, 16–17, 20–21, temple worship restored
- c) 2 Chronicles 30:1, Passover reinstated
- d) 2 Chronicles 31:1, idols and high places torn down
- e) 2 Chronicles 31:4, 12, faithfulness in returning tithes and offerings
- f) How has your own spiritual growth affected your desire to be faithful in returning tithes and offerings?

4. Staying honest with God on our faith journey

- a) Our walk with God is not a single step but a faith journey. What can we learn from the experience of Abraham recorded in Genesis 22:1–14? (See also Hebrews 11:17–19)
- b) Hebrews 12:1–2, why it is important to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we journey each day by faith?
- c) Staying honest with God is a daily commitment. How can we minimize the risk of falling back into dishonesty?

