

Scripture Reading: Genesis 14:8-24

Sermon Title: Taxing or Tithing

Move from a tax mentality to a [treasuring](#) & [trusting](#) mindset

The [prelude](#):

When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

Genesis 14:14-16

So Abram said to Lot, **“Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives.** ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.” ¹⁰ **Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt....** ¹³ Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.

Genesis 13:8-13

Even when you fight with family you should still [fight for them](#).

If you are in a mess of your own making, you need [rescue \(humility\)](#) not more resources.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners,** **Christ died for us.**

Romans 5:6-8

Abram & [Melchizedek](#):

Praise the Lord. Blessed are those **who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.**

v1

Problematic Idea #1: Tithing is an [Old Testament command](#) not a New Testament commitment.

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” **Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.**

Genesis 14:17-20

Tithing is a faith principle & practice **before it is an Old Testament requirement.**

Problematic Idea #2: The primary purpose for tithing is receiving **material blessing from God.**

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and **he blessed Abram**, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.
Genesis 14:17-20

The greatest gain from tithing is **more God, not more stuff.**

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, **your very great reward**."
Genesis 15:1

The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³ that **I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.'**" ²⁴ I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."
v21-24

Tithing is about worshipping God **above all else.**

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High
v18

The Lord says to my lord: "**Sit at my right hand** until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."
Psalm 110:1

The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: "**You are a priest forever**, in the order of Melchizedek."
Psalm 110:4

First, the name Melchizedek means "**king of righteousness**"
Hebrews 7:2

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, **a King** who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be

saved and Israel will live in safety. **This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.**
Jeremiah 23:5-6

Then Melchizedek **king of Salem**
v18a

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.** ⁷Of **the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.**
Isaiah 9:6-7

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! **Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you,** righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
Zechariah 9:9

brought out **bread and wine.**
v18b

While they were eating, Jesus **took bread,** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ **Then he took a cup,** and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.” ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins
Matthew 26:26-28

He was **priest of God Most High,**
v18c

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ **but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.** ²⁵ **Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.** ²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.
Hebrews 7:23-27

The pre-law principle & practice of tithing is **fulfilled in the person of Jesus**—the truer & greater Melchizedek.

Tithing & Life:

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, **belongs to the Lord;** it is holy to the Lord.
Leviticus 27:30

Tithing is a conscience reminder of critical realities.

Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the Lord. That is why I said concerning them: ‘They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.’”²⁵ The Lord said to Moses,²⁶ “Speak to the Levites and say to them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the Lord’s offering.

Numbers 18:20-21

Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.²³ Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23

At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year’s produce and store it in your towns,²⁹ so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

Tithing is a primary means of strengthening our faith & furthering God’s work.

When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it,² take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name³ and say to the priest in office at the time, “I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.”⁴ The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God.⁵ Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: **“My father was a wandering Aramean,** and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous.⁶ But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor.⁷ Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression.⁸ So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey;¹⁰ and now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me.” Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him.¹¹ Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature

deserving of wrath. ⁴**But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.** ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:1-10

Tithing is the floor, not the ceiling, of our generosity because Jesus, not Abraham, is the standard of our lives.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, **to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
Romans 12:1

Commit to tithing your time, talent, & treasure to God for the next 90 days.

Honoring God with our resources:

1. Know

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;
Proverbs 27:23

2. Give

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

3. Save

for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. ²⁵When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in, ²⁶the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field. ²⁷You will have plenty of goats’ milk to feed your family and to nourish your female servants.
Proverbs 27:24-27

4. Spend

Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.
Romans 13:7-8

But Abram said to the king of Sodom, **“With raised hand I have sworn an oath** to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,
v22