

First Things First: Restored Giving in a Revived Church | Nehemiah 10-13

In this message from October 25, Pastor Kyle focuses on the connection between genuine revival and right giving practices, drawing from Nehemiah 10, 12, and 13. Just as God restored financial faithfulness among His people as part of their covenant renewal, He calls us to the same alignment today. How we steward our resources is a measurable reflection of where our hearts truly are, and a church that honors God with its firstfruits is a church that is fully surrendered to Him.

IN A GENUINE REVIVAL RIGHT GIVING PRACTICES ARE RESTORED

HOW WE STEWARD OUR RESOURCES IS A MEASURABLE REFLECTION OF THE STATE OF OUR HEARTS

Nehemiah 10:35-37 (ESV)

³⁵ We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD; ³⁶ also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks; ³⁷ and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.

THERE IS A WAR FOR THE FIRST

WE'RE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RETURNING WHAT'S FIRST TO THE LORD

Nehemiah 10:37 (ESV)

And to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.

Nehemiah 10:38-39 (ESV)

³⁸ And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the

house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. ³⁹ For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God.”

Do you believe the role of the Temple in the Old Covenant is more important than the role of the Local Church in the New Covenant?

And if our answer is No..., then why would we ever think God would want less resources being returned first through the Local Church?

APPOINTED SPIRITUAL LEADERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES & WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT BEFORE GOD

Nehemiah 12:44 (ESV)

⁴⁴ On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered.

Nehemiah 13:30-31 (ESV)

³⁰ Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; ³¹ and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

REAL REVIVAL AND THE RETURNING OF FIRSTFRUITS ARE A PACKAGE DEAL

Proverbs 3:9-10 (ESV)

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Malachi 3:8-10 (ESV)

⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse,

that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

IF WE'LL HONOR HIM WITH THE FIRST, HE'LL OPEN THE HEAVENS OVER THIS HOUSE

GOD THE FATHER GAVE HIS FIRST FOR US

Colossians 1:15 (ESV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.