



# Looking to Jesus

Part Fifteen  
The Blessing of Generosity  
Hebrews 5:5-10



So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” . . . And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Who is Melchizedek? How is Jesus like him?

Unknown origin, no genealogy listed

Name = "Righteous King"

Worshiped "El Elyon" (Sovereign Lord)

King of Salem = peace; (Jerusalem)

Both King and Priest forever (Ps. 110:4)

Both superior to Aaronic Priesthood (Heb 7:3ff)

Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe. (Gen. 14:20)

## Abraham's tithe . . .

**Was not:** A “tax” which is required by a government to be paid by citizens and enforced by law.

**Was:** An extravagant response of gratitude to God for victory and deliverance.

**And entirely voluntary.**





While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.” Luke 21:1-4 (N.L.T.)

**Goal? Not equal giving, but equal sacrifice.**

## Tithing in the New Testament

→ Is a good place to start, but a poor place to finish. (Luke 11:42)

→ Measured by sacrifice rather than percentages. (II Cor. 8:1-5)

→ Is an outflow of our joy and gratitude to God. (II Cor. 8:2; 9:7)

→ Because we have given ourselves first to the Lord! (v. 5)



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. II Cor. 9:7

Pray about your giving in 2017

✓ Give as you have “purposed” in your heart

✓ . . . In keeping with the extravagant gift of grace.

✓ . . . joyfully! (hilaros)

✓ . . . As faithfully and regularly as God gives to you.