

“GENEROUS”

Part Three

“Tithe & Offering: The First Steps of Generous”

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV)

Verse 11: “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

INTRODUCTION:

Generous: *giving or bestowing liberally and unselfishly; abundant; plentiful*

Luke 12:16-21

*** Three Observations:**

1. This man was selfish, not generous. (Luke 12:16-19)
2. God called him a fool. (Luke 12:20)
3. Being generous starts by giving to God. (Luke 12:21)

Tithe: a tenth; to pay or give the tenth portion; to tithe as a debtor.

Offering: a present as in a sacrifice or tribute; to bear towards; to tender to God as a presentation or sacrifice.

- The tithe and the offering are looked upon by God as **first fruits**. (Proverbs 3:9-10; Leviticus 27:30-32)

Joshua 6:1-2, 15-29

*** Four Observations:**

1. Jericho was a gift of God's generosity. (Joshua 6:2)
2. God required them to pay tithes and give offerings. (Joshua 6:18-29)
 - Jericho: a place of fragrance
(Exodus 29:18; Leviticus 1:9; Numbers 28:1-2)
3. Israel was unfaithful in tithes and offerings. (Joshua 7:1)
4. Their unfaithfulness brought about a curse. (Joshua 7:11-12)

*** Withholding the Tithe and Offering Causes God's People To:**

1. Become Afraid.
2. Be Set Apart For Destruction.
3. Feel Alone and Without God.

Joshua 7:12 (NIV)

12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

*** Key Word: “Unless”**

*** The Answer?**

Malachi 3:6-12 (NIV)... 6 “I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7 Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ 8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the LORD Almighty. 12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.