

# MAR 21

Shady Shores Baptist Church

2019

From The Pastor's Heart . . .

As I mentioned last month, God spoke through the prophet Haggai that everything we have comes from God. That being said, we are not the ultimate owner of our "stuff." Since everything we have comes from God, we must understand that He only asks us to return to Him 10% of what He has given us. Tithing started in the Old Testament. Some have said that since we are no longer under the old covenant, we are no longer required to tithe. Actually, tithing started long before the giving of the Old Testament law.

Genesis 14:17-24

17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." **And he gave him a tenth of all.** 21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself." 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, lest you should say, "I have made Abram rich." 24 "I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."

In 2 Samuel 24, King David had sinned and instead of God punishing him, He sent a pestilence on the people of Israel. 70,000 men from Dan to Beersheba died. David called out to the Lord to let him be the one who was punished. See what happened next.

2 Samuel 24:18-24

18 So Gad came to David that day and said to him, "Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." 19 And David went up according to the word of Gad, just as the LORD had commanded. 20 And Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants crossing over toward him; and Araunah went out and bowed his face to the ground before the king. 21 Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be held back from the people." 22 And Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what is good in his sight. Look, the oxen for the burnt offering, the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood.

23 Everything, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." 24 **However, the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing."** So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. Thus the LORD was moved by entreaty for the land, and the plague was held back from Israel.

Jesus, in pronouncing woes upon the Pharisees said in Luke 11:42 **"But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."**

So we see that tithing has never been suspended. God still expects us to be faithful. And He is not so interested in our comfort as He is in our obedience.

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount said: (Matthew 6:19-24)

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 22 The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 **No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**"

Next month I will address where we take the tithe and dispel some misconceptions about how we give.

**See you Sunday: Looking Up, Reaching Out, Going Forward.**

**From My Heart To Yours,**

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