

Stronghold of Money

Lesson 5 “How Do I Know How Much To Sow?”

- I. Introduction - We are in a series on finances we’re calling “Stronghold of Money” as money has a strong hold on many of our lives. It determines the decisions we make, where we work, where we live, how much we give, and what we buy. **The goal of the series is to walk in financial freedom, especially in times of inflation and economic hardship.**

A. Review

1. In our first session we talked about having “An Abundance Mindset.”
2. In week 2, we answered the question, “Does God Want Me Rich?” Yes, absolutely! **2 Corinthians 8:9. Jesus became poor so we could become rich.**
3. Last week we talked about how the kingdom of God operates on the principle of the seed. We also saw seeds reproduce after their own kind. This means if we want to walk in financial harvest, we must sow financial seed.
4. Last week we talked about praying over or blessing our seed. The blessing is like fertilizer that empowers the seed to do its work.

B. The final piece about sowing I want to help with is answering the question “How Do I Know How Much To Sow?” Ex: Andrew Wommack Story - Gave away all the money he had because he wanted to live on faith. This was a right heart, but a dumb head and hurt him financially (went two months barely eating when Jamie was pregnant. Multiple verses about have savings accounts - **Deuteronomy 28:20, Malachi 3:10.**

II. How Do I know How Much To Sow?

A. Is tithing for today? Tithe means tenth.

1. **Malachi 3:8-10**

- a. Under the Old Covenant, when people didn’t give a tithe plus certain required offerings (up to about 1/3 of income) they robbed God.
 - b. Under the law, tithing was required or else the Jews would be cursed. We have now been redeemed from that curse. **Galatians 3:13.**
2. Since we’ve been redeemed from the curse, this leads to the question, should we tithe as New Covenant believers or has the tithe been done away with?
- a. **Hebrews 7:5-11 - Hebrews** contrast the Old Covenant law with New Testament grace. These verses compare the requirements of the priesthood with the New Covenant. Under the law priests received tithes.
 - b. Under the New Covenant, the greater priest (Jesus) currently receives our tithes (not as a requirement, but as a free will offering and honor.)
This is done after the order of Melchizedek.

3. Tithing is for today, however the motive has changed. We now tithe after a greater order. Both Abraham and Jacob (**Genesis 28:22**) tithed prior to the law.

B. Who is Melchizedek? **Hebrews 7:1-4**

1. He was the king of Salem (Jerusalem). (Under the law, the office of king and the priesthood was separated). **This means Melchizedek came from a higher order/greater reality.**
2. His name means King of Righteousness and King of Peace (some have said this means he was a pre-incarnate Christ). I don't see evidence to support, but I think the more clear idea is he is a type of Christ (**made like the Son of God; the verse doesn't say he was the Son of God.**)
3. Prior to the law, Abram gave him a tithe of his spoil (first fruits). This occurred in **Genesis 14**.
4. **Genesis 14:1-12** records how 4 northern kings attacked and overwhelmed 5 southern kings and took all the goods of Sodom and Gommorah. Abraham's nephew, Lot was taken captive.
5. **Genesis 14:13-16** Abram finds out what happened and then arms 318 of his servants and he brought back Lot and all the goods that were stolen.
 - a. Can you say the blessing of Abraham (**Galatians 3:14**)? He was a shepherd, not a general, yet God graced him to recover all.
6. **Genesis 14:17-24**
 - a. **Verse 17** The king of Sodom comes out to meet Abraham.
 - b. **Verses 18-20** Simultaneously, Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of God brought out bread and wine (picture of communion/ covenant/) and he blessed Abram (**Prior to Abram tithing!**). **The New Covenant is of a higher order. Under the law you tithed to be blessed, under grace, you tithe because you are blessed.**
 - c. **Verses 21-24** Abram refuses to take any of the king of Sodom's offer.
 - i. He wanted everyone to know it was God who made him rich, not a man (It's the blessing of God, not our personal ingenuity or connections that bring prosperity).
 - ii. He also probably didn't want to be associated with the corruption of Sodom or be indebted to them in any way.

III. Conclusion? So, How Do I Know How Much To Sow Under the New Covenant?

A. The tithe is a good principle to start as it was prior to the law, during the law, and now Jesus receives our tithe, but motive matters. We aren't tithing to be blessed. We tithe because we are blessed and the tithe recognizes God as the source of our blessing.

B. **2 Corinthians 9:6-8** Give as you purpose in your heart. As you spend time with God, His heart will become your heart and you'll want to sow big!

