

## IT'S PERSONAL

For the next 3 weeks we will be looking at the kingdom principles of economics and finance: Tithing, giving and seeding.

### What is “The Tithe?”

Tithe –is the first 10 % of our financial increase

**Malachi 3:10** - Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house... (KJV)

### THE PRINCIPLE OF THE FIRST

**Exodus 13:1-2** – The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“**Consecrate to Me every firstborn** male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites **belongs to me**, whether man or animal... (NIV)

**Exodus 13:12-13** – <sup>12</sup>you are to give over to the Lord **the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn** males of your livestock **belong to the Lord**. <sup>13</sup>Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem **every firstborn** among your sons. (NIV)

**Q Why must God be first?**

**Matthew 6:33** – Seek **FIRST** His kingdom... then all these things shall be added...

**Genesis 4:2-4**—Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought **some of the fruits** of the soil as **an offering** to the Lord. 4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the **firstborn** of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering. (NIV)

**He is immutable (unchanging)**

**Psalms 119:89** – Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. (NKJV)

**Matthew 24:35** – Heaven and earth will pass away but my word will never pass away (NIV)

**He is omniscient (He knows all)**

## IT TAKES FAITH TO GIVE THE FIRST

**Hebrews 11:6** – And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (NIV)

## THE FIRST SHOWS WHERE OUR HEART IS

**Luke 12:34** – Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. (NLT)

## THE FIRST IS A PLACE OF HONOR

**Proverbs 3:9-10** – **Honor** the Lord with your wealth, with the **first fruits** of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (NIV)

**See the context:**

**Proverbs 3:5-8** – **Trust in the Lord with all your heart** and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (NIV)

## THE FIRST RELEASES THE BLESSING

The process of blessing/redemption

**Exodus 13:12-13** – All the **firstborn** males of your livestock belong to the Lord. Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem **every firstborn** among your sons. (NIV)

**Romans 8:29** ...that he might be the **firstborn** among many brothers. (NIV)

**1 Corinthians 15:20** - But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. (NIV)

## TITHING COMES FROM A GRATEFUL HEART

**Exodus 13:14-15** – “In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD .... This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ (NIV)

TCC- we too were lost, unclean, deserved to die... but God with a mighty hand sent His son, His first, His best, His only and has redeemed us... so we gladly bring our first and our best to the Lord.