

IT'S PERSONAL

For the next three weeks we will be looking at the kingdom principles of economics and finance as seen in tithing, giving and seeding. This series is called "Money Talks."

- Tithing... Giving... 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 food in My house... (NIV)

Offering – above the tithe, comes out of love, care and gratitude out of our heart.

Seeding – spontaneous, immediate response to the Holy Spirit.

PRINCIPLE OF THE FIRST

Exodus 13:1, 12-13- The Lord said to Moses, ²"**Consecrate to Me every firstborn male.** The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites **belongs to me**, whether man or animal... ¹²you are to give over to the Lord **the first offspring of every womb.** **All the firstborn** males of your livestock **belong to the Lord.** ¹³Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem **every firstborn** among your sons. (NIV)

Why?

God must be first in every area of our lives.

Matthew 6:33 – Seek **FIRST** His kingdom... **THEN** all these things...

The principle of the first goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden

- This tree is mine... Give it to me live... You can have all the rest

Cain and Abel

Q. Why was Cain's offering refused and not blessed?

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)

Point: God did not receive Cain's offering **because he couldn't**

- **God is preeminent**
- **God is immutable**
- **God is omniscient**

IT TAKES FAITH TO GIVE THE FIRST

Hebrews 11:6 – Without faith it is impossible to please God. (NIV)

THE FIRST SHOWS WHERE OUR HEART IS

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

THE FIRST HONORS GOD

Proverbs 3:9-10 – “**Honor** the Lord with your wealth, with the **firstfruits** 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 BRINGS BLESSING TO THE REST

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)

Jesus was God's tithe

Romans 5:8 – He committed His best to us...While we were yet sinners...

TCC: When you give the first-fruit of your income it **redeems the rest**

- Blesses the rest, because the first was a true expression of faith, trust and honor

TITHING: 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. ¹⁵When 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 our best to the Lord.