Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Eighteen

Tithing, Offering and Giving to the Poor

Session Goals

1. The disciple will be able to explain what Jesus taught His Disciples about giving.
2. The disciple will identify practical ways to help the poor.
3. The disciple will be able to list three ways God promises to repay those that give to the poor.

Begin the session praying together and reviewing the Action Steps from the previous week. Pray with individuals who had difficulty applying the information from last week. Thank God where there were successes in the application.

Tithing

The word tithe comes from Hebrew and means a tenth. To tithe is to pay a tenth of what you earn or receive to God.

- Tithing came before the law.

The first tithe in the Bible was:

Genesis 14:18-20 "Then Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He was the priest of God most high, and he blessed him, and he said; 'Blessed be Abram of God, most high possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God most high, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.' And he gave him a tithe of all."

The second recorded tithe, Abraham's grandson Jacob made a vow.

Genesis 28:20-22 "If God be with me and will watch over me… all that you give me, I will give you a tenth."

- Tithing was central to God's law. It was not seen as a gift to God, but payment owed to Him. Tithes were given as first fruits meaning the first and the best of what they had.

Leviticus 27:30 "A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, is the Lord's and is holy."

Leviticus 27:32 "The entire tithe of the herd and flock-every tenth animal that passes on to the shepherd's rod-will be holy to the Lord."

Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the Lord with your wealth and the first fruits of all crops."

2 Chronicles 31:12 "God's people faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts."

Deuteronomy 14:22 "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year."

Malachi 3:7-9 "Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty. 'But you ask, how are we to return?' 'Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.' 'But you ask how we rob you?' 'In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse, the whole nation of you, because you are robbing me.'"

Numbers 18:21 "To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting."

Haggai 1:4-6 "'Is it time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses while this house remains a ruin?' Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways you have planted much but harvested little. You eat but never have enough you drink but never have you fill. You put on clothes but are not warm. You earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes in it.'"

- Jesus affirmed that tithing was important.

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill, and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter without neglecting the former."

Luke 11:42 again Jesus referred to tithing as something that should not be neglected.

Reasons you may feel you are not able to tithe

- You are going through difficulties financially.
- You have a partner who does not have a desire to tithe.
- You have a lot of debt.
- You do not have a local church to give to.

Solutions

If you do not have a local church, give a tithe to a ministry that blesses you. If you have a partner who does not want to tithe, talk together about giving and give to the poor or a cause you know is also on God's heart. If you have financial issues, ask God to meet those needs as you attempt to increase your giving to Him. Malachi 3:10 says: "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 there will not be room enough to store it."

Promises from God to those that tithe.

Malachi 3:11-12 "'I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines of your fields will not cast their fruit', says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land.'"

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

Malachi 3:10 "'Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test,' says the Lord of hosts 'if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for your blessing until there is no more need.'"

Offerings are what is given that is in excess to the tithe.

In the New Testament the emphasis is Christians are commanded to give generously not to just tithe.

Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

2 Corinthians 9:11 "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."

1 Corinthians 16:2-3 "On the first day of the week, let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem." (This was a gift because of famine in Jerusalem)

Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship."

Exodus 35:21 "Everyone who is willing, and whose heart moved him, came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work."

Exodus 35:22 "All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord."

Ezra 2:68-69 "Families gave free will offerings toward the rebuilding of the House of God. According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for this work."

Giving with the Right Attitude

God does not need our money but when we give, it is because we want to show our love for Him and our obedience to His commands. It is a way of giving Him thanks and worshipping Him when we give with the right attitude cheerfully, eagerly, and generously.

2 Corinthians 8:12 "Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have not what you do not have."

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:11 "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

Have the Right Approach Towards Money

I Timothy 6:6-11 "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these things we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness."

Matthew 6:19-21 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moth and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal wherever your treasure is there the desires of your heart will also be."

Giving to the Poor

Proverbs 28:27 "He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses."

Galatians 2:10 "Only they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do."

James 1:27 "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father is this to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

Luke 12:33 "Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with money bags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys."

Matthew 19:21 "Jesus said to him, "if you would be perfect, go sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven and come follow me."

I Timothy 6:18 "They are to be good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share."

Promises from God for those that give to the poor

Proverbs 28:27 "Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse."

Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

Proverbs 22:9 "The generous themselves will be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

Matthew 19:21 "Jesus said to him, "if you would be perfect, go sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven and come follow me."

Proverbs 14:21 "...whoever shows kindness to the poor will be happy."

Psalm 41:1-3 "Happy is one who cares for the poor; the Lord will save him in a day of adversity. The Lord will keep him and preserve him; he will be blessed in the land. You will not give him over to the desire of his enemies. The Lord will sustain, him on his sick bed. You will heal him on the bed where he lies."

What Else Can You Give to the Church or to the Poor?

- Whatever possessions you have:

Hebrews 13:16 "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

1 John 3:17 "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

Luke 3:10-11 "The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He answered whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

- Your Time:

Ephesians 5:16 "Making the best use of the time because the days are evil."

- Your Efforts:

Psalm 110:3 "Your people shall be volunteers in the day of your power:"

Matthew 5:16 "In the same way let your light shine before people so that they can see the good things you do and praise your father who is in heaven."

Acts 20:35 "In everything I have shown you that by working hard we must help the weak. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus's words: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."

- Hospitality:

Romans 12:13 "Contribute to the needs of God's people and welcome strangers into your home."

Action Steps

- Pray about how you can help the poor in your area or that you know. Do something that God prompts you to do. Share next week what you did and the result. Are there any organizations in your area that you could volunteer to assist in their care for the poor?

- Make a list of ways you can give more generously. It can be financially or by helping or by giving your time. Do something from the list this week.