

## **Observations in Relation to Stewardship, #5 Selected Scriptures**

**Introduction: A Stewart is one who manages what belongs to another. The Bible teaches that all that we have belongs to God:**

*“When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day” (Deuteronomy 8:10–18).*

*“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But Who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee” (1 Chronicles 29:11–14).*

*“The earth is the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).*

*“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts” (Haggai 2:8).*

**Everyone is a steward because God owns everything and everyone. However, everyone is not a good steward.**

- I. God Wants Everyone to Be a Good Steward.**
  - A. God wants everyone to be a good steward of their temples or bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19).**
  - B. God wants everyone to be a good steward of their time (Ephesians 5:16).**
  - C. God wants everyone to be a good steward of their talents and spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 7:7; 12:7, 11; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10).**
  - D. God wants everyone to be a good steward of their treasures (Proverbs 3:9; Matthew Malachi 3:8-12).**
    - 1. One day everyone will give an account of their stewardship (Luke 12:16-21; 16:1-12; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:2).**

2. Good stewards will be rewarded for their stewardship (Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 9:17; Revelation 22:12).

## II. David Is an Example of a Good Steward:

### A. Observe how David gave to the work of the Lord (1 Chronicles 29:2-9, 14, 17):

1. David gave generously or liberally (1 Chronicles 29:2).
2. David gave sacrificially (1 Chronicles 29:3-5).
3. David gave exemplary (1 Chronicles 29:4-9).
4. David gave cheerfully (1 Chronicles 29:9; cf. 2 Corinthians 9:7).
5. David gave willingly – no pressure was applied (1 Chronicles 29:6-9; 14, 17; cf. Exodus 35:5, 21-22; 36:5-7).
6. David gave sincerely – his motives were right (1 Chronicles 29:9, 17).

### B. Observe the reasons David gave to the work of the Lord (1 Chronicles 29:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11-16, 20-21):

1. David recognized that he was given to God and not to men (1 Corinthians 29:1, 7, 9).
2. David placed his treasures where His heart was (1 Chronicles 29:3; cf. Matthew 6:19-21).
3. David first gave himself to the Lord (1 Chronicles 29:5; cf. 2 Corinthians 8:5).
4. David recognized that he was a steward or manager of all that belong to God (1 Chronicles 29:11-16; cf. Deuteronomy 8:10-18; Job 1:21; Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; James 1:17).
5. David recognized that all earthly things are temporal (1 Chronicles 29:15; cf. Mark 8:36-37; Luke 12:13-21).
6. David recognized that given is a part of worship (1 Chronicles 29:20-21; cf. Matthew 2:11).

## III. The Hebrews in the Book of Malachi Were Not Good Stewards Because They Were Robbing God:

- A. *God's people were robbing Him* in tithes. The word "tithes" means "a tenth part" or 10%. Three tithes were required by God to support the ministers and the ministries of God. Two of the three tithes were annual, and one was every three years: (1) The Temple or Levite Tithe to support the priest and Levites (*Numbers 18:21-32; Nehemiah 13:4-12*); (2) The Celebration or Festival Tithe (*Deuteronomy 12:5-18; 14:22-27, Living Bible*). This tithe was carried to Jerusalem where the families would join in a celebration meal. This tithe would also be shared with the

Levites. (3) The Welfare Tithe for the poor, the widows, fatherless, helpless, etc. This tithe was required every third year (*Deuteronomy 14:28-29, Living Bible*).

- B. *God's people were robbing Him* in tithes and in offerings (Malachi 3:8).**
- 1. God's people were robbing Him in offerings:**
    - a. The first five chapters of Leviticus mentions five different offerings – Three of these offerings were voluntary and two were required.**
    - b. In Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, we read about the “freewill offering,” the “offering of first-fruits,” the “offering of the half shekel sanctuary tax,” and that the offering of animals, in which portions of the sacrifice were given to the priests (Exodus 30:13; Leviticus 7:14; Numbers 15:19-21; 18:26-29).**
  - 2. Many believe that the offerings withheld in Malachi 3:8 were those which supported the ministers – the priests, Levites, singers, and gatekeepers (Exodus 29:27-28; Nehemiah 13:4-12).**
- C. The reasons God's people were robbing Him (Malachi 3:7):**
- 1. A lack of faith in God (Malachi 3:7; cf. Romans 4:20-21).**
  - 2. Disobedience to the Word of God (Malachi 3:7).**
  - 3. Departure from God (Malachi 3:7).**
- D. The results of robbing God (Malachi 3:10-11):**
- 1. The heavens were closed – no rain (Malachi 3:10).**
  - 2. The crops were destroyed by the devourers – locusts and other insects (Malachi 3:11).**
  - 3. The cattle were diseased (Malachi 1:7-8).**
- E. The remedy for robbing God (Malachi 3:7, 10):**
- 1. Recognize, repent, and return (Malachi 3:7).**
  - 2. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse or place of worship (Malachi 3:10a).**
  - 3. Test God in the matter of tithing (Malachi 3:10b).**
- F. The rewards for obedience to God regarding tithing (Malachi 3:10-12):**
- 1. An open heaven (Malachi 3:10a).**
  - 2. A poured-out blessing (Malachi 3:10b).**
  - 3. Rebuking of the devourer (Malachi 3:11).**
  - 4. A testimony among the nations (Malachi 3:12).**

#### **IV. Different Beliefs about Tithing:**

##### **A. The beliefs of Dr. David Jeremiah regarding tithing:**

- 1. Dr. David Jeremiah believes that tithing should be practice in the local church today.**
- 2. Dr. David Jeremiah gives seven reason as to why he and his wife practice tithing today:**
  - (1) Tithing is a matter of priority with God (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 6:33).**
  - (2) Tithing is a method of participating in the work of God: “Bring all the tithes in the storehouse that there may be meat in My house” (Malachi 3:10).**
  - (3) Tithing is a means of proving or testing God (Malachi 3:10).**
  - (4) Tithing is a means of provisions by God (Malachi 3:10).**
  - (5) Tithing is a means of proving that God is real and that He cares for His people (Malachi 3:10).**
  - (6) Tithing is a means of putting God first (Proverbs 3:9; Matthew 6:33).**
  - (7) Tithing is a means of practicing your faith (Hebrews 11:6).**
    - (a) Tithing is a decision.**
    - (b) Tithing is a discipline.**

##### **B. The beliefs of Dr. Adrian Rogers regarding tithing:**

- 1. According to Dr. Adrian Rogers, “tithing started with Abraham 400 years before Moses and the Law (Genesis 14:1-24; Hebrews 7:1-10).**
- 2. Dr. Adrian Rogers said regarding tithing: “Abraham commenced it. Jacob continuing it. Moses commanded it. Jesus commended it. Who am I to cancel it?” (Genesis 14:20; 28:20-22; Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:21-28; Deuteronomy 12:6-17; 14:22-23; Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42).**

##### **C. The beliefs of Dr. Tony Evans regarding tithing:**

- 1. Dr. Tony Evans believes that the tithes should be brought to the “storehouse.”**
  - a. According to Dr. Evans, in the Old Testament the “storehouse” was the temple, which was God’s designated place of corporate worship.**
  - b. Today the “storehouse” is the local church where one is receiving spiritual food and nourishment.**
- 2. Dr. Evans believes that the offering may be given to the local church, or other ministries, or to meet needs; but the tithe should be restricted to the “storehouse” or local church.**
- 3. Dr. Evans believes that heaven is close to those who are robbing God in tithes and in offerings.**
  - a. Dr. Evans believes that the deeper one is in debt the faster one needs to run to the practice of tithing in order to unlock the windows of heaven.**



4. **Dr. Swindoll points out that Abraham was not a citizen of Salem (Jerusalem); therefore, Abraham was not paying taxes when he gave tithes.**
  5. **Dr. Swindoll also points out that God liked tithing so much during the time of Abraham that He established it as a rule during the time of Moses.**
  6. **Dr. Swindoll pays tithe, but he believes that one should give as one as directed by God and that one is wrong if one does not follow God's directions.**
  7. **Since there were three times, and since the Jews gave more than a tenth of his crops, Dr. Swindoll recommends 20% as a starting point in giving to the local church.**
- F. The beliefs of Pastor Julius R. Malone regarding tithing:**
1. **Many believe that tithing is legalistic because we are now under grace and not under law.**
    - a. **Tithing started with Abraham 400 years before Moses and the Law (Genesis 14:1-24; Hebrews 7:1-10).**
    - b. **The Bible clearly teaches that we are under grace, we are not under law.**
      - 1) **We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).**
      - 2) **Grace goes beyond the law (Matthew 5:20-22, 27-28; 43-44).**
      - 3) **Love does more than the law requires (1 Corinthians 13:1-13).**
    - c. **When a percentage can be attached to given in the New Testament, it is always more than 10%:**
      - 1) **Zacchaeus gave over 50% (Luke 19:8).**
      - 2) **The pool widow gave 100% (Mark 12:41-44).**
    - d. **One of the things for which Jesus complemented the Pharisees was tithing (Matthew 23:23).**
  2. **Pastor Malone believes that tithing is to be the starting point in giving because we are under grace and grace exceeds the law (Matthew 5:20, 21-22, 27-28, 43-44; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 19:8).**
  3. **In 1970 Pastor Malone, took the tithing tests, and the spiritual blessings that were poured out were so great that it was necessary to take a leave of absence from work from November 5, 1970 to December 4, 1970.**
  4. **Past Malone believes that the local church can do all that God has called her to do if the member will pay tithes and give offerings, including special offerings for special projects (Exodus 35:4-5, 20-22, 29; 36:3-7; 1 Chronicles 29:1-21; 2 Chronicles 24:1-14; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 and 9:6-15).**

**Pastor Teacher - Julius R. Malone**