

## **If Money Could Talk | Part 1**

### **Lesson 1**

Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 28:12; 1 Kings 17:11-16;  
Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:8-11; Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38  
April 7, 2024

## **If Money Could Talk**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In four of the seven passages listed above, God asks His people to tithe. It is commonly thought that the Lord only asked for 10 percent. However, the actual figure is closer to 23½ percent,<sup>1</sup> which includes the allotment of crops, new wine, and olive oil to Levites, foreigners, the fatherless, and widows during the Old Testament period. See Numbers 18:21-29 and Deuteronomy 12:6-18, 14:22-29, 26:12.

Yet, God is not unreasonable. As usual, He has a plan. In gratitude for produce given to Him and those He names, He offers to “throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing” (Malachi 3:10) on those who share their treasure. This is not always a material blessing, however, or even a blessing seen in this life. Rather, it may be a material blessing, spiritual blessing, or something we see when we get to heaven. Can Christians be certain of receiving this blessing, whether in this life or the next? If it is God’s Word (the Bible), then yes!

***Memory verse: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”—Luke 6:38***

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

## **OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. The widow of Zarephath, a non-Israelite, had barely any food, yet Elijah asked her to give him bread before providing the same for her son and herself. What did Elijah say to justify his request? (1 Kings 17:14)
2. Because of the widow's act of faith in serving Elijah, God provided her with food but withheld sustenance from the Israelites who were worshiping Baal. What warning was being realized? (Deuteronomy 32:21)
3. What are examples of a tithe in Leviticus 27:30?
4. For what does God ask to be tested in Malachi 3:10?
5. Why does Jesus scold the Pharisees even though He acknowledges their tithing? (Matthew 23:23)

## **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Review Deuteronomy 28:12, and then read Deuteronomy 28:44. Considering the passages listed below, why do you think it appears that God has changed His mind? (Deuteronomy 9:23b, 28:14-68; Jeremiah 11:17)
  
2. Elijah told the widow of Zarephath that flour and oil would not be depleted until the Lord sends rain on the land (1 Kings 17:14). Why was God waiting to allow rain to fall? (Leviticus 26:3-4; Deuteronomy 11:13-14; Jeremiah 5:24-25)
  
3. Consider the ways that God blesses His peoples' generosity in the passages of this lesson, then read Matthew 6:19-21. With this passage in mind, do you think this means material blessing or some other type of blessing? Why or why not? (Luke 6:20-22; Philippians 4:19; James 1:2-18)

4. Read Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 14:12-14. What do you think these passages say about how God views giving and taking care of those in need?

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. The title of this lesson is “If Money Could Talk.” If, indeed, money *does* talk, what would your money/spending habits say about you?

2. How persuasive are this lesson's biblical passages in conveying the importance of giving? Why or why not?

3. How do this lesson's biblical passages inspire you to follow Jesus? What are some steps you can take to follow Him this week regarding giving?

---

<sup>1</sup>Tuland, C.G. 1958. The Three Tithes of the Old Testament. *The Ministry*. September.  
<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1958/09/the-three-tithes-of-the-old-testament>