

RUSSELL SANDERS

1-27-2021

GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 5

THE TITHE PART 3 – JESUS

Jesus spoke of the tithe in Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42. He was rebuking the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees and the scribes, for not having their hearts right toward God. They were religiously following the letter of the Mosaic law but doing so pridefully as we can see in the account of Luke 18:10-14 where two men, a Pharisee and a publican (a tax collector) went into the temple to pray.

The Pharisee pridefully prayed out loud, ***“God, I thank thee that I am not as other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.”*** The publican standing away with eyes humbly cast down, cried out, ***“God be merciful to me a sinner.”***

Jesus said the publican was justified and not the prideful Pharisee. It was a matter of the heart.

Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees because they did not have ***“the love of God”*** (Luke 11:42) and they lacked the weightier (more important) matters of the law such as righteous ***“judgment, mercy, and faith.”*** Nevertheless, Jesus complimented them approvingly for their tithing. He said, (Matthew 23:23) ***“ye pay tithe (even) of mint and anise and cumin...these (things) ought ye to have done, and not leave the other undone.”***

Luke 11:42 states it again where Jesus commends them for being faithful in their tithing and said, ***“these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”***

Jesus fully endorsed tithing but stressed that it is done out of a heart of love toward God and not merely as a religious ritual.

If Jesus believed tithing to be a good and right thing to do, then so should we, after all, he is God! If God said it, we must be obedient to His Word.

Tomorrow we read the prophet Malachi.