

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

Understanding Biblical Stewardship: The Purpose of Tithing

Speaker: Pastor Keith Jenkins

Date: January 19, 2025

Introduction:

In this powerful continuation of the "ENTRUSTED" series, Pastor Keith Jenkins explored the biblical foundations and purposes of tithing. He emphasized how tithing preceded the law, continued through it, and remains a principle for blessing and provision in God's kingdom.

1. The Four Purposes of the Tithe:

Pastor Keith outlined the biblical purposes for tithing in ancient Israel and their modern applications.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the purposes of tithing change your perspective on giving?
2. Which of the four purposes of tithing most challenges your current view of giving?

Supporting Verses:

Numbers 18:20-21 - "Then the Lord said to Aaron, 'You will have no inheritance in their land... I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting.'"

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: The Levites had no inheritance but relied on tithes for sustenance.
- Theological Significance: Tithing supported ministry, worship, community, and care for the vulnerable.

- Application: Our giving supports similar purposes in the church today.

2. The Storehouse Principle:

Pastor Keith explained how the church functions as today's storehouse for tithes.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to bring the "whole tithe into the storehouse"?
2. How does seeing the church as God's storehouse affect your view of giving?

Supporting Verses:

Malachi 3:10 - "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: The storehouse was crucial for sustaining temple worship and ministry.
- Theological Significance: God invites testing His faithfulness through obedient giving.
- Application: Regular tithing supports the ongoing ministry and mission of the church.

3. Moving from Scarcity to Abundance:

Pastor Keith addressed how tithing challenges scarcity mindsets and opens doors to God's abundance.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has scarcity thinking affected your approach to giving?
2. What steps can you take to develop an abundance mindset rooted in God's provision?

Supporting Verse:

2 Corinthians 9:8 - "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul was encouraging generous giving among the Corinthian church.
- Theological Significance: God's abundance enables both our needs and our giving to be met.
- Application: We can trust God's provision as we practice generous giving.

Conclusion:

Pastor Keith Jenkins' message reminded us that tithing is not merely a legal obligation but a pathway to blessing and provision in God's kingdom. Through faithful giving, we participate in God's work while positioning ourselves for His abundance.

Reflection Questions:

1. What holds you back from fully trusting God with your finances?
2. How can you begin or strengthen your practice of tithing?
3. What abundance mindset truths do you need to embrace to grow in generosity?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for inviting us to participate in your kingdom through giving. Help us to trust you with our finances and break any scarcity mindsets that hold us back. Give us courage to test your faithfulness through tithing and wisdom to steward all you've entrusted to us. May we experience your abundance as we give generously. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

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Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and biblical passages.

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