## **TITHING & TALENTS**

## Jesus and Money

See if you can catch a theme

<sup>3</sup> Later, Cain brought some food from the ground as a gift to God. <sup>4</sup> Abel brought the best parts from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, <sup>5</sup> but he did not accept Cain and his gift. So Cain became very angry and felt rejected.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord asked Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you look so unhappy? <sup>7</sup> If you do things well, I will accept you, but if you do not do them well, sin is ready to attack you. Sin wants you, but you must rule over it." Genesis 4:3-7 (NCV)

<sup>17</sup> After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

<sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. <sup>19</sup> Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Creator of heaven and earth.

<sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High,

who has defeated your enemies for you."

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

Genesis 14:17-20 (NLT)

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made this vow: "If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, <sup>21</sup> and if I return safely to my father's home, then the Lord will certainly be my God. <sup>22</sup> And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshiping God, and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me." Genesis 28:20-22 (NLT)

These stories are all hundreds of years before Jewish people gave 10% to God as a rule/law.

## The Parable of the Talents

<sup>14</sup> "For it is just like a man about to go on a journey. He called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, depending on each one's ability. Then he went on a journey. Immediately <sup>16</sup> the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. <sup>17</sup> In the same way the man with two earned two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

 $^{19}$  "After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.  $^{20}$  The man who had received five talents approached, presented five more talents, and said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I've earned five more talents.'

<sup>21</sup> "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy.'

<sup>22</sup> "The man with two talents also approached. He said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I've earned two more talents.'

<sup>23</sup> "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy.'

<sup>24</sup> "The man who had received one talent also approached and said, 'Master, I know you. You're a harsh man, reaping where you haven't sown and gathering where you haven't scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

 $^{26}$  "His master replied to him, 'You evil, lazy servant! If you knew that I reap where I haven't sown and gather where I haven't scattered,  $^{27}$  then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and I would have received my money back with interest when I returned.

<sup>28</sup> "So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.
<sup>30</sup> And throw this good-for-nothing servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' Matthew 25:14-30 (CSB)

That's a lot of words. I wonder how many...? 391. The answer is 391.

The one thing I know for sure about Jesus is:

