

Financing the Kingdom – Firstfruits

Luke 12:41-48

- A "steward" is a *manager, not the owner*.
 - *Stewardship entails money, but much more: our time, talents, lifestyles, etc.*
- The Lord has *established principles of stewardship* as a way to *insure blessing us*, but *also a way to determine our submission to His Lordship*.
- For *forty years* in the wilderness, the *Lord explained to them His ways to insure they would be a blessed and prosperous people*.
 - He told them these things because *He WANTED to bless them*.

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Ex. 34:19-20, 26

- The Spiritual Principle of Firstfruits.
 - *These were the same offerings the Lord told Abraham to offer to Him in Gen. 15 when God made covenant with Abraham.*
- ALL first things belong to the Lord.
 - *Clean things can sanctify unclean things.*
 - *If it cannot be used in service for the Lord, it has to be destroyed.*

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Ex. 34:19-20, 26

- The Lord and His portion must come first or His blessing will not come upon us.
 - Lev. 27:30: "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD."
 - Prov. 3:9-10: "Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."
 - Mal. 3:8-9: "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation."

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Ex. 34:19-20, 26

- We are to give of our firstfruits.
 - *Giving of the firstfruits establishes Jesus' LORDSHIP over our finances.*
- Firstfruits examples:
 - *Christ* being planted for the Lord to *insure blessing upon us.*
 - *Isaac* being planted to *insure the nation coming from Abraham.*
 - *Cain & Abel.*

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Ex. 34:19-20, 26

- Scriptural tithing is a firstfruit offering, but only if it's done immediately after receiving the increase.
 - *Paying bills, or doing anything else with the money first, and then writing a check on Sunday is not a firstfruits tithe, but an offering of 10 percent....*

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Joshua 6:17-19

- *The Principle of Firstfruits applied to Jericho.*

Joshua 7:1, 10-11

- *The firstfruits, which belong to God, the "devoted things," become "accursed" when we take them of keep them for ourselves...(Ananias & Saphira).*
- *Individuals can be blessed, but the corporate blessing, anointing and provision will not be there.*
 - *We have become accustomed to poverty, because we have become accustomed to disobedience and rebellion.*
