

Hebrews

Hebrews 7:1-10 – Righteousness, Peace, Giving – Part III

April 5, 2009

I. Introduction

A. **Hebrews 7:1-10 . . .** (*Reading vs. 4*) For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, [2] to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, **king of righteousness**, and then also king of Salem, which is **king of peace**. [3] Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but (*that is, Melchizedek*) made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually. [4] Now observe how great this man was to whom **Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils**. [5] And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham. [6] But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises. [7] But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater. [8] In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on. [9] And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, [10] for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

B. Prayer

II. Practical Application – Righteousness, Peace, Giving. We've talked about Jesus being our **King of Righteousness** and our **King of Peace**. Now I want to turn our attention to the issue of tithing, or what I am calling today, giving.

A. **Giving – How much?**

1. Abraham gave a tenth – the best 10% of the what he had. The Israelites were required by God to give close to 30% – which did not include their freewill offerings. The Rich Young Ruler was asked by Jesus to give up all his worldly wealth and follow Jesus. The poor widow put her last two pennies in the Temple treasury and was praised by Jesus for giving the most that day – because she gave all she had in spite of the fact she faced great need.

- a. The point here is not how much you give – though that is an issue to consider carefully.
 - b. The point is that our giving is to come from (1) a recognition that we are stewards and not owners, (2) a deep faith and confidence in God as our provider and protector, (3) and a great love and respect for God.
2. Giving from the recognition that we are stewards and not owners.
 - a. **Luke 16:1-9** – story of the dishonest steward who got caught and then became the shrewd steward. **THE POINT IS**, he was a steward and not the owner – and he represents us.
 - b. **Luke 16:10-13** . . . **He** who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and **he** who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. [11] Therefore if **you** have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to **you**? [12] And if **you** have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give **you** that which is your own? [13] No **servant** can serve two masters; for either **he** will hate the one and love the other, or else **he** will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You** cannot serve God and wealth. **THE POINT IS**, we are stewards and servants using what belongs to another and that “other” is God.
3. Giving out of a deep faith and confidence in God as our provider and protector.
 - a. **Matthew 6:31-33** . . . Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' [32] For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. [33] But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
4. How much we give is to be determined by our love for God.
 - a. **Matthew 6:19-21** . . . Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; [21] for where your treasure

is, there your heart will be also. **Who or what is our treasure?**

- b. **Matthew 6:22-23** . . . The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. [23] But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **Selfishness makes our eyes bad and prevents the light from getting in. Love and benevolence makes our eyes healthy so they can let in the light of the truth of God.**
- c. **Matthew 6:24** . . . No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. **Who or what do we love?**

5. Example: John Wesley who said, “Earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.” He earned a great deal of money from his music, yet he died with just a few more dollars than it took to be buried and pay his pallbearers. What happened to his money? Obviously he had not accumulated worldly possessions of any significant amount. Nor did he have a significant amount of money in savings. So what happened to it? He gave it away in the service of His Lord.

6. Summary:

- a. The world focuses on how much we have, what we own, and the kind of pleasures or security it purchases for us.
- b. God focuses on what we treasure as demonstrated by who we serve, what we love, what we accumulate, what we store (or hoard), and where we look for security.
- c. The world treats money as its source of security, pleasure, possessions, and status.
- d. The Christian treats money as a tool to its source of helping those less fortunate, building God’s kingdom through missions, meeting the financial obligations of the local church, and providing for the needs of the family.

B. Giving - what attitude?

1. **II Corinthians 9:7** . . . Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **Of one's own free will and cheerfully.**
2. **Proverbs 19:17** . . . One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed. **All giving is first and foremost giving back to God what belongs to Him.**

C. Giving – when?

1. **I Corinthians 16:2** . . . On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.
2. **Proverbs 3:9** . . . Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce.

D. What about borrowing and debt?

1. Be careful about entering into any debt.
 - a. **Romans 13:7-8** . . . Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. [8] Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.
2. Pay all debts even if it means limiting giving for a time (*my opinion*).
 - a. Cutting back on giving in order to repay our debt is the right thing to do in that to do otherwise is (1) to withhold what rightfully belongs to another and (2) to break our word – whether given explicitly or implicitly.
 - b. However, to cut back on giving in order to repay our debts without first cutting back on what we are spending on ourselves in order to repay our debt is to act selfishly. In the end, it is robbing God of what is His.
 - c. If we have incurred debt, we have also placed ourselves into a position where we are servant to the lender and therefore duty bound, as a Christian, to repay the lender.

E. What about savings?

1. If our savings is for an expected expense – that is good.
2. If our savings is for a sense of security against “what if’s” – that is not so good.

3. If our savings is for a purpose that honors God – that is good (retirement spent in God's service on our own money).
4. If our savings is for a purpose that serves our interests at the expense of God's honor and the good of those in need around us – that is not so good in that it demonstrates a lack of love for God and faith in God.

F. **Expect God's blessing if you give and His discipline if you don't.**

1. **Proverbs 11:24** . . . There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want.
2. **Malachi 3:8-12** . . . "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. [9] "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! [10] "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. [11] "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts. [12] "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

III. Conclusion from **Hebrews 7:1-10**

- A. Jesus is the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace. He will be our King in these two areas if we live according to His will.
- B. Giving is a privilege, and if we give to honor God and serve the good of those in need around us, it is a solid and clear proof of our faith in God, our love for God, and our submission to God.