

## Treasures of the Sanctuary—Lesson 28—“Tithe and the Priesthood”

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### OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/TALK:

1. What would you say is the best thing you’ve ever given money for? And why?
2. What do you think is more of a blessing: giving something to another, or, receiving something from someone else? Why?

### READING AND STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus say would be happening just before His return? (Matthew 24:14,15)
2. How did John picture this gospel message going to the whole world just before Jesus comes? (Revelation 14:6,14)
  - a. What are the three main parts of this message? (v.7,8,9; Rev. 18:1,4) *(Actually, God’s church is made up of those who are “called out” of the world, Babylon, and all sin, etc. The Greek word for church is “ekclesia.” The word “ek” means “out”.*
3. Where does God call us to be? (1 Corinthians 12:12,13)
  - a. The body of Christ is His church *(ref. Ephesians 1:22,23)*
4. What happened in the early church? (Acts 2:38, 40-47)
  - a. *Note: those were baptized were added to God’s church...they did not act independently. They fellowshiped together and became active members of God’s church. They rejoiced in the truth and followed all the Apostles teachings! It was an organized, orderly church.*
5. Did Paul instruct for all things to be done in an organized way in the church of God? (Titus 1:5)
  - a. *This organization and order in the church enabled them to take the gospel to the world. (other text references Acts 15:1-23; 16:4,5)*
6. What kind of work does God call for? Is it to be an orderly work? (1 Corinthians 14:33,40)
7. How did God organize for His gospel work to be financed? (1 Corinthians 9:13,14)
8. The priests of the Sanctuary were committed to a full-time ministry. How did God provide for all their financial needs? (Numbers 18:21)
9. Did Jesus commend this tithe paying system? (Matthew 23:23; *ref. Mark 12:42—the widow’s mites offered*)

10. Did even Father Abraham pay tithe for the priests? \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 14:18-20) What about Jacob? \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 28:20-22)

11. How important is it for God's people to participate in God's chosen system? (Malachi 3:8-10)

- a. Was there a special blessing for all of those who faithfully gave God what was His? (v.10,11)
- b. Perhaps some have wondered, "How can I afford to give ten percent of everything that comes my way?" According to God's promise, "How can we afford not to give it?!!" (*thousands have been blessed over, and over, and over again when paying God's tithe faithfully*)

12. What should always be our attitude in giving? (2 Corinthians 9:6,7)

- a. *Remember, "God so loved the world that He gave..." (John 3:16). Giving is the joy of God's heart. And it is always more blessed to give than to receive. We can have this spirit of God when we too give. It shows that our heart is concerned with reaching and saving other souls with God's wonderful message of hope and salvation.*
- b. *Note: The system of tithe and offering in the Seventh-day Adventist church is a wonderful system. It has allowed the SDA church to have an active work in 203 of the 232 countries officially recognized by the U.N. This work is in more countries than any other protestant church! Money does not go to any one pastor (like in some churches) or to any one church! It goes to the conferences of the world church and is then distributed out to each officially ordained Pastor by the conference according to the proper salary for any given area. (no pastors are growing rich off of people's money!!)*

13. Answers to some practical questions about tithing:

- a. When should I tithe? Do it first thing...as soon as you get your paycheck (*ref. Proverbs 3:9*)
- b. Should we tithe before or after taxes? Tithe your increase (Deuteronomy 14:22). Pay tithe before Government taxes. God is first.
- c. Can I place my tithe wherever I see fit? Tithe is not to be used for whatever we choose. It should be brought into God's "storehouse"—His church. God shows us that tithe pays for the ministry. Offerings go where we see the need and feel impressed to give. (*ref. Malachi 3:10; 2 Chronicles 31:11*)

14. The Bible describes the words and the joy of God's people when they finally see Jesus return. What do they say? (Isaiah 25:9)

- a. Wouldn't you like to be ready for this day? And to see thousands of others ready for it?

#### **HEART QUESTION(S):**

- 1. It's a wonderful thing to be a part of God's church—a group that is helping people everywhere to prepare for Jesus' soon return! Working together with God, we can reach the world with the gospel. **Would you also like to be part of such a group of believers?** \_\_\_\_\_
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#### **NOTES:**