

"God's Law of Leftovers" (Deuteronomy 24:19-22) Danny Hodges – OT3513

vv.19-22 This is the law of leftovers, and it was God's welfare program in Israel.

The motive was not just obedience to the Lord, but appreciation for where you have come from and what God has done for you. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt. We were slaves to sin, and God redeemed us by the precious blood of Christ.

Deut.10: 18-19 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.

The Israelites crops were their paychecks, so the application for this in our culture would mean giving from what we have left over after paying the bills. So right away somebody might be thinking, I don't have any left over after paying the bills. Someone might even be thinking, I don't even have enough to pay the bills!

If you do not have any leftover, or you cannot pay the bills, I have a couple of questions for you:

- Are you honoring the Lord with the firstfruits of your income?
 - Prov.3:9; II Chron.31:5; Gen.14, 28; Heb.7).
 - See Haggai 1:2-7; It could the Lord is disciplining you because you are not honoring Him first with your wealth.
- Do you live by a budget?
 - Are there unnecessary things you need to cut out of your budget?

If you are honoring the Lord with the firstfruits, & living by a good budget, perhaps you are in a period of testing. The challenge is to continue to honor the Lord first, trusting Him to take care of you. Though we may go through times of testing, the principle in Scripture is that when we give consistently, God gives back (see II Cor.9:10-11). Please note that the reason God gives us increase is so we can be generous "on every occasion."

Giving helps to guar us against greed. Our sin nature is naturally greedy and selfish (see Ex.16: 16-20); They sought to hoard it for themselves; it was a selfish, greedy, faithless maneuver!

Greed has taken down many people. This was Balaam's problem (he loved the wages of wickedness; It's what brought about Achan's destruction (Joshua 6:18-19, 7:1-2ff). What is so interesting in the story of

Achan is that, after the victory at Jericho, God told them to share the riches of Ai (Joshua 8:1-2). Here again we see the principle of honoring God with the firstfruits, then he blesses us as a result; Greed took down Gehazi (II Kings 5); Greed destroyed Ananias and Sapphira, We will look at their story in a couple of weeks when we cover the first part of Acts 5. But let me note here that they were part of a church that was greatly blessed by the Lord. And what they did came right after verses telling us what a giving church they were a part of (read Acts 4:32-37); Jesus said that the Pharisees loved money (Luke 16:13-14) and were full of greed & self-indulgence (Matt.23:25); And greed is was the reason behind Judas' downfall. As keeper of the money bag for Jesus and the other apostles, Judas used to personally steal from it. And he betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver.

Truths regarding greed/love of money:

1. Root of all kinds of evil

- I Tim.6: 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

2. It can become a god in one's life

- Matt.6: 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

3. The desire is never satisfied

- Eccl.5: 10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

4. It leaves one discontented

- I Tim.6: 6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.
- Heb.13: 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

5. Chokes spiritual fruit out of your life

- Matt.13: 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

6. May keep you from being saved

- Matt.19: 21-23 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

- See Luke 12:13-21

Biblical counsel & misc. truths regarding giving

- Honor the Lord with the firstfruits of all your increase (Prov.3:9).
- Give consistently from your leftovers; Make giving a lifestyle (I Cor.16:1-2)
- Give according to how God has blessed you (II Cor.8:12; I Cor.16:2)

- A bigger field/vineyard would leave more to glean
- Realize that everything we have is from God (see Deut.8:10-18; I Chron.29: 3-14).
- Giving is investing in heavenly treasure (see Matt.6:19-20; I Tim.6:17-19).
- Giving gets God's attention (See Acts 10:1-4)
- Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)

Leftover giving suggestions

• Special Needs, 4Kids, GFA, Bri K., SRI, Good Samaritan

CONCLUSION

• II Cor.8: 7 But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.