



🔑 Key Takeaways from the Word “The Big Decisions of Tithe, Offerings and First fruits” | 24 Feb 2019

🌟 Big Decisions vs Small Decisions

- Example: Marriage venue = small decision 🏰, but Keeping marriage strong = big decision 💍❤️
- Believing in Jesus = small 🏛️, but making Him personal Lord and Savior = big 🙏
- Attending church = small 🏰, but being planted in the church God has for you = big 🌳
- Listening to sermons = small 🎧, but submitting and receiving from your pastor = big 🙏👤📖
- Walking in love is more than walking in gifts ❤️🌟
- Bringing up children = small 😬, but raising them as a child of God = big 🙏👤🙏
- Keeping the worship as a priority, is a big decision 🎵🙏
- When you **set your priorities right**, God will open greater avenues for you 📖🌟

🌿 Pivotal Decisions (Small but effective)

- For pivotal decisions, you have to plant yourself somewhere 🌱
- **Be planted** in the word of God 📖, be planted in the church 🏰
- Example: Waking up early 🕒 with a positive attitude 😊 or responding wisely 🧠
- It might not be a big decision, but **pivotal** 🔑

⚠️ Wrong Decisions

Wrong decisions happen when:

- You go against God’s Word ❌📖
- You ignore wise counsel 🙎
- You lack knowledge 📖 (Hosea 4:6)

🔄 How to respond to past wrong decisions:

- Don’t be controlled by your wrong decisions 🚫🧠
- Don't try to control others with your wrong decision 🚫👤
- Don't waste time to make others believe in your wrong decisions 🕒❌
- Don't tell God to agree with your wrong decision 🙏🏛️

Only solution: **Return to God’s Word** 🔄📖

💰 Big Decisions on the area of finances

- If you don't do anything without faith, it's a sin 🚫🙏
- Our action should be a result of faith 🌟

🎁 Offering

- The first mention of offering (**Genesis 4:4-5**) 📖
- The first mention of everything in the Bible is of paramount importance ★
- 3 meanings of the word offering:
 1. A **gift** 🎁 - giving willingly. No compulsion. A sign of responding to God's love ❤️
 2. **Payment owed** 💳 to a higher authority 👑
 3. A **sacrifice** 🩸 - Surrendering something of value
- Abel made a sacrifice unto God 🙌
- Most of the time we sacrifice to get something back 🔄
- In the process of time 🕒, Cain brought an offering (**Genesis 4:3**) and God did not respect that ✖️
- It is not about the offering, it is about your **heart** ❤️
- God is looking at what is in your heart 👁️❤️

🌿 First fruits

- Abel brought the first born of the flock (**Genesis 4:4**) 🐑
- Be like Abel who brought the first fruits 🌿
- Abel brought the first born and of their fat (**Genesis 4:4**) - denotes the best ★
- It speaks about **quality and quantity** ⚖️
- Give the **first and the best** to the Lord 🙌🌟
- It is those who don't give often persecute the one who gives the best ✂️

🔥 Second mention of offering - Noah's Offering (Genesis 8:15-22)

- He took the clean animals and sacrificed it on the altar 🙌🔥
- Those were the animals needed for future survival 🌍
- But he **sacrificed out of his scarcity** 🙏
- And **God blessed the earth** because of Noah 🌈 (**Genesis 8:22**)
- God will never forget a giver and his gift even after generations 🌿

🏠 Tithe

- The first mention of tithe - **Genesis 14:18-24** 📖
- Abraham gave a tithe of it all to Melchizedek 🙌
- Melchizedek, the priest of the God Most High 👑
- Melchizedek was someone who did not participate in war ✂️✖️, but Abraham recognized the God who gave him victory 🏆
- **Tithe was before the Law** 🕒
- It came through Melchizedek, not through Aaronic priesthood 📖
- Abraham became our father before the circumcision (**Romans 4:12**) 👨👦
- He gave the tithe before circumcision ✂️
- Because he is our father, we are to follow 🦶 what he did even before circumcision
- It does not come under law, it comes under grace 🌟
- **Tithe = one tenth** 10

- Hebrew word for tithe **Ma'aser** comes from the word **rich** 💰
- Your richness is in the tithe ✨
- Give it to God from a **willing heart** ❤️, **based on the Word** 📖, not out of compulsion 🚫

⚖️ **2 principles:**

- Give your tithe to the priest 🙌
- Give your taxes to the king 👑📜

You don't choose whether to pay taxes, similarly, tithe is not optional 📌

- Giving is more under **grace** because **grace exceeds the law** ✨
- It is grace that makes you do the impossible things 💪

👤 **Joseph and Mary took Jesus to be offered unto God (Luke 2:21-24)**

- Exodus 13 says anything that opens the womb belongs to God 📖
- Joseph and Mary brought turtle doves 🐦 as offering as they were poor
- Even the poor gave to God 🙌

👑 **Wise men came to Jesus with gifts (Matthew 2:1-2)**

- They opened their treasures 💎 and presented gifts to Jesus (**Matthew 2:11**)
- Where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** is.
- If your **treasure is Jesus**, you will open up anything to Him 🙌
- **You can never outgive God** ∞

📖 **Matthew 23:23**

- Jesus did NOT say not to tithe ❌
- He emphasized the weightier matters of the law ⚖️: **Justice** ⚖️, **Mercy** ❤️, **Faith**
- When grace touches you, you will tithe and you will have justice, mercy and faith

🙌 **Luke 18:9-14**

- The Pharisee prayed to himself 🙌👤
- He prayed and tithed 💰
- But God was upset with him 😞 because he thought he received everything in his effort 💪
- It is by **grace and faith** alone God blessed our prayers

💡 **How should we give?**

- Whatever you give for God, He will return in **100-fold** ¹⁰⁰ (**Mark 10:28-31**)
- The widow who gave very little, but everything she had 💔 (**Luke 21:1-4**)
- Jesus looks at your heart 🙌❤️
- Woman who broke an alabaster flask before the Lord 🙌
- She gave up her treasure 💎, an ancestral property
- Judas criticised her ❌
- The people who don't give criticize people who give 🙌
- The early church were not possessive about their possessions 🙌 (**Acts 4:32**)

★ **A life of breakthrough begins when we make the big decision to honor God first—with our heart, priorities, and finances—through faith-filled tithes, offerings, and first fruits.**

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