**Sermon Notes**

**“5 Things I Learned from Tithing”**

*2 Corinthians 8:1–9*

*1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 8 I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

**Tithing in the Old Testament**

Tithe = “a tenth” (Deuteronomy 12, 14, 26, Numbers 18, *Malachi 3:8–10\*)*

**Is the Tithe Commanded?**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

New Testament principle: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Mark 12:41-44)

**5 Things I Learned from Tithing**

1. I learned what \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_my heart.
2. I learned tithing \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. I learned how to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. I learned what \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means.
5. I learned that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were right.

**Take Action**

1. Commit in prayer
2. Make a plan
3. Start giving
4. “Tithing: a step-by-step guide for beginners”

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the most personally challenging aspect of this message for you? Where did you sense God’s prompting?

2. “If churches taught on the subject of money as often as Jesus did, no one would show up.” Timothy Keller. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

3. Read Mark’s account of the poor widow’s offering in Mark 12:41-44. How does this story challenge you in your understanding of giving and generosity?

4. While the *letter* of the law is no longer binding, the *spirit* of the law is for many Old Testament laws. What is the *spirit* (i.e. principle) Malachi 3:8-10 teaches us about what God desires?

4. Money is powerful because it often symbolizes something for us, and that’s why we have trouble letting go of it. What does money symbolize for you? Power? Security? Opportunity? How does knowing this help you move towards obedience to God in this area?

5. Share with the group your biggest struggle in faithfully living out a lifestyle of radical generosity. What attitudes, behaviours, and/or habits leave this lifestyle out of reach for you?