

Generous

Intro. Exodus 13:1-2; 12-13

Exodus 13:1-2; 12-13

¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal."

¹² you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. ¹³ Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

I. The firstborn male must be sacrificed or redeemed

A. Explain

1. Lamb / donkey
2. Clean was sacrificed.
3. Unclean was redeemed with a clean sacrifice.

B. Many don't understand tithing.

1. Principle that goes all throughout Bible.
2. Began before the Law and is also in the N.T.
3. Even in the Garden of Eden.
 - a. You can have every tree and fruit in the Garden except that one.
 - b. It was a test.
 - c. That one is reserved for me – It's mine.
 - d. You can have it all except the first 10% - It's mine.
 - e. Tithing is so important to God.

C. Were you born clean or unclean?

1. All were born sinners.
2. You don't have to teach your children to be bad, it comes naturally for them.

D. Jesus born clean or unclean?

1. The clean was sacrificed so the unclean could be redeemed.
2. Tithing is very person with God.
3. Why
 - a. You give tithe first.
 - b. You give it in faith – that brings blessing.
 - c. God gave Jesus first and didn't wait for us to clean up.

- d. God gave Jesus while we were mocking him and spitting in his face.
- 4. God gave Jesus in faith believing for a return.
 - 1. First born

Colossians 1:13-15

¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** over all creation.

- 2. First fruits offering

I Corinthians 15:23

...Christ, the **firstfruits**...

- E. The first born or the first portion must be sacrificed.
 - 1. The first portion is the redemptive portion.
 - 2. If you give me the first then the rest are redeemed.
 - 3. The rest are blessed.

Question

Would you rather go through life with 100% and all of it cursed or with 90% of it and all of it blessed?

- F. The way you get it blessed is to give the first portion to God.
- G. It comes down to the heart.
 - 1. Do you trust God?

Any first thing given is never lost. Any first thing not given is always lost.

II. The firstfruits must be offered

Exodus 23:19

Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.

Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the **firstfruits** of all your crops;

¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

A. Why did God tell the Israelites to bring all of the gold and silver into the house of God?

1. First city.
2. He **didn't** say give me 10%.
3. He **didn't** say conquer 10 cities and give me one.
4. He said "if you give me the first one the rest will be redeemed, blessed"
5. It took faith to give all of the silver and gold from the first city.

B. Achan took some things.

- Joshua 6:18

"Devoted things: literally means "consecrated possessions"

- Joshua 7

KJV actually uses the word "accursed things"

Achan's disobedience caused the Israelites to be defeated by "Amorites".

When you get paid it is consecrated to God.

If you don't bring it to the house of God it is cursed.

C. It doesn't belong in your house it belongs in God's house.

D. Cain and Abel's sacrifice.

1. Every wonder why God accepted Cain's sacrifice and did not accept Abels?
2. When you understand principle of bringing firstfruits and first born to God you will understand.

Genesis 4:3-5a

³ **In the course of time** Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.

E. Unpack

1. One is a rancher one is a farmer.
2. Explain Cain and Abel
 - a.) Cain – "in the course of time"

- b.) Abel – “some of the first born”
3. God did not have a choice.
 4. He is first and above all and cannot accept second best.
 5. It is a theological immune ability.
 6. That means it is impossible!
 7. God is always first.
 8. This is 2500 years before the Law.

Illustration

Golf 18 holes his score will be 18. He can never hit the ball and it not go in the hole

Application

- God must be first.
- There is no blessing where he is anything but first.
- If God is first -- he blesses.
- If God is second or third -- We are under a curse.

III. The tithe must be brought first

II Chronicles 31:5

⁵As soon as the order spread, the sons of Israel provided in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, oil, honey and of all the produce of the field; and they **brought** in abundantly the tithe of all. (NASB)

Malachi 3:10a

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house....

A. “**bring**”

1. You cannot give what is not yours.
2. You can only bring it back.
3. The tithe is brought back to the Lord because it is HIS
4. It is a matter of the heart.
5. We are being tested.
6. Who is first?

B. The tithe is not an offering.

Illustration

Borrow car

When you are done you say...

... I'd like to give you this car.

- C. Tithe is brought into the **store house** or **house of God**.
1. Bible never mentions Christian organizations
 2. Good causes
 3. Universities
 4. Bible colleges
- D. These are worthy things and we should.
1. We do not designate our tithe and divide it here and there.
 2. If we do not bring our tithe into the house of God we are stealing.
 3. Not our tithe.
 4. Bringing it to the house of God brings the blessing.

Illustration

10 \$100 bills

How much is the tithe?

Which one is the tithe?

- First one.
- How do you know which one is the first one?
- It is the first one you spend.
- The first one that leaves your hand.

- E. One of those bills is the redemptive portion.
1. The first one is the redemptive portion.
 2. Don't give the redemptive portion to the mortgage company.
 3. Don't give the redemptive portion to Visa.
- F. Leftovers are not a tithe.
1. Tithe brought first.
 2. The first portion has a blessing on it.
 3. The first portion has the power to redeem the other 9 bills in your hand and bless them.

G. This is throughout the Bible.

Illustration

- As an ordained minister a portion of my tithe goes to the storehouse that feeds me – Assembly of God District office.
- I write a check for the remainder of my tithe here to LifeChurch.
- First opportunity to give it I give it.

- Not legalistic.
- Jami goes grocery shopping “great we’re cursed gave the tithe to Winn Dixie”
- It is a matter of the heart.
- First opportunity to give.
- In my heart it is given and I am waiting for the first opportunity to give.

Exodus 13:14-15

¹⁴ "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.'

H. Explain scripture.

1. One day. Dad what are you doing?
2. Sheep bears a lamb
3. Dad what are you doing?
4. Were in the **ranching** business and your killing our profits.
5. When that happens – “our family has not always been in the ranching business.”
6. We used to be slaves.
7. Several months we were out in the field and your great-grandfather took off his shirt and there were scars all over his back. I was wondering if you saw that.
8. Those were from the whip.
9. We didn’t own anything.
10. We didn’t have sheep or cattle – we were slaves – but God with a mighty hand.
11. Because of that we gladly give to God the first born of our flock.
12. Everything we have comes from God.

Illustration

I got to do this with my oldest son recently.

Saw a tithe check for the car that was given to me.

Big to a little boy. More than a quarter.

Let me tell you why.

I was not born a Christian

I was born a slave.

I gladly give because everything we have comes from the Lord.

Conclusion

Who is really first in your life?

Who do you honor with the first fruits of your increase?

Whom do you worship?

Whoever is first is the one you worship.

Conclusion

- **The firstborn male must be sacrificed or redeemed**
- **The firstfruits must be offered**
- **The tithe must be brought first**