

## **Jesus on Tithing**

### **WARM-UP**

- Have you ever received instructions too complicated to follow? What happened?
- Do you list the things that you need to do in a day? Why or why not?
- Who is the most obedient person that you know? Tell about situations when this person showed this trait.

### **WORD**

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”* **MATTHEW 23:23**

The tithe is a tenth of our income that we faithfully give to God. In Bible times, the tithe was the firstfruits of the crops and livestock. We are commanded to dedicate our tithe to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30). We give our tithes not because He needs us to, but as our worship and declaration that we recognize God as our provider and our priority even in our finances. As Christians, obedience to God is necessary, but Jesus urges us to do more than blindly obey.

**1****Obey God.**

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin . . . These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”* **MATTHEW 23:23**

In this passage, Jesus emphasized obedience as an important part of the Christian life. Our obedience is the proof that we love God and that we are His disciples (John 13:35; 14:15). We must do everything we do for God out of a loving relationship with Him. This includes tithing. We tithe to express our love for God and not because we want to be perfect, to be better than others, or even to feel good about ourselves. How did your life change when you started obeying God out of your love for Him, instead of trying to earn His favor?

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## 2 Do not neglect the weightier things.

*“. . . For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”*

**MATTHEW 23:23**

Jesus criticized the scribes and Pharisees, who prided themselves on their strict obedience to the Law, giving expensive herbs and spices as their tithes, but failed to observe the weightier matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness. As Christians, we are called to live a life of obedience to God and His Word. But our obedience to God should never just be a checklist. Even as we obey God, we must uphold what He says are weightier: the heart behind the way we interact with His people. What are the two greatest commandments? (Matthew 22:35–40)

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### APPLICATION

- Is earning God's favor your motivation for obeying Him? How does knowing that you do not have to work to earn His favor affect the way you obey and pray to Him?
- Is there a particular law or command from God that you find hard to obey? How does the truth that we obey out of a loving relationship with God help you overcome this difficulty?
- Who are you teaching and helping to obey the commands of God? How can you help them obey God from their hearts and grow deeper in their relationship with Him this week?

