



OFFERINGS FOR JESUS

Lesson 4 for
January 28, 2023



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"What shall I render
to the Lord for all
His benefits toward
me? I will take up
the cup of salvation,
and call upon the
name of the Lord. I
will pay my vows to
the Lord now in the
presence of all
His people"

(Psalm 116:12-14)



Offerings are mentioned both in the Old and in the New Testament. Unlike the tithe, there are no fixed rules regarding offerings.

There are notes regarding the motives of the offering (offerings of gratitude), the circumstances of the offerings (offerings for the sin), their purpose (offerings for the poor), and the specific amount of some offerings (for the maintenance of the temple).



- ➡ **Questions about offerings:**
 - ⦿ Why should we give offerings?
 - ⦿ How much should we give?
- ➡ **Beyond the economic repercussions:**
 - ⦿ An act of worship
 - ⦿ How God sees the offerings
- ➡ **Special offerings**

The background is a solid light blue. Overlaid on this are several dark blue, curved, ribbon-like shapes that sweep across the frame. In the center, there is a large, white, irregular shape that resembles a stylized letter 'A' or a folded piece of paper. The text "QUESTIONS ABOUT OFFERINGS" is written in a dark blue, sans-serif, all-caps font, following the curve of the white shape.

QUESTIONS ABOUT OFFERINGS



WHY SHOULD WE GIVE OFFERINGS?

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)



Giving an offering to God is a voluntary act, not an obligation (Ps. 54:6). However, not giving an offering is considered as a theft by God (Mal. 3:8).



God doesn't need anything from us (Ps. 50:12), but He receives our offerings and uses them to fulfill His work on Earth.

What should be our motivation when giving our offerings?



Thanking Jesus for His sacrifice and His blessings



Expressing our full submission to God



Showing that we trust Him



Revealing our love for God and our neighbor



Rejecting the love of money

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." (Deuteronomy 16:17 NIV)

Giving an offering is an act of thankfulness for the blessings we've received. Therefore, it makes sense that the offerings should be proportional to the blessings.

Does that mean that we pay the Lord for His blessings with our offerings (Ps. 116:12-14 NIV)?

David was very clear. We cannot pay God for the things He does for us. We can only respond to His blessings with thanksgiving. We show how thankful we are by being generous with God's cause and our neighbors.

When we are generous, we also eradicate selfishness from our hearts. Giving offerings to the Lord is a Christian duty with spiritual and moral repercussions. Which ones?





BEYOND THE ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

"Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts." (Psalm 96:8)

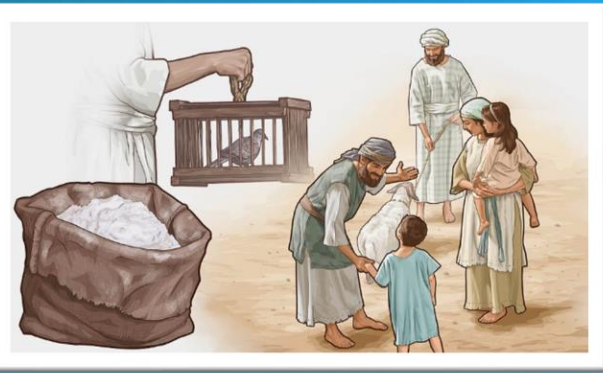
In the Old Testament times, nobody could worship God "empty-handed" (Dt. 16:16); that is, without an offering.

Giving our offerings is part of our corporate worship programs, like music, preaching, or studying the Bible.

We may use cash or digital tools to give our offerings. No matter how we do it, we are worshipping the One who has given us everything.



Therefore, giving our tithes and offerings is part of our worship to God.

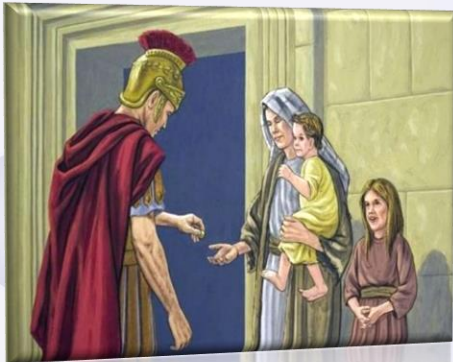


HOW GOD SEES THE OFFERINGS

"Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all;" (Luke 21:3)

Jesus was watching how "many who were rich put in much" into the offering box. Then, a poor widow gave only 2 little coins (about 1/64 of a daily wage). Why did Jesus say that she had given more than any other (Mr. 12:41-44)?

We tend to measure generosity as the amount that's been given. However, God values the motives. The widow longed for collaborating in God's work and gave Him everything she had.



God also considers our acts in favor of those in need, like in the story of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-4). God saw Cornelius' offerings as a reflection of how he loved God and his neighbors.



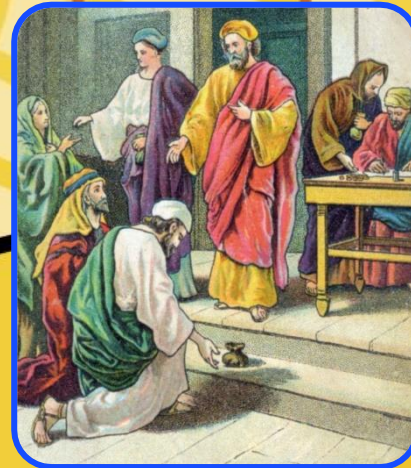
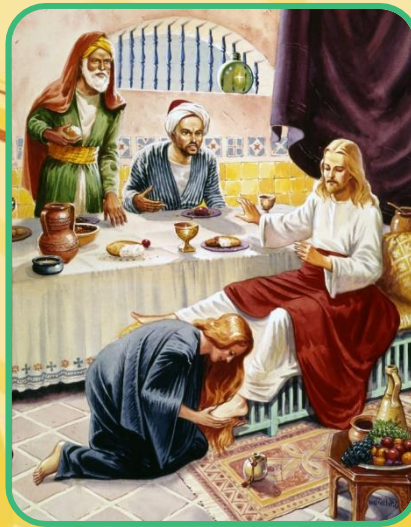


SPECIAL OFFERINGS

"Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." (John 12:3 NIV)

Mary's offering was special in two ways (Mr. 14:3-5): she didn't give money, and the cost was huge (equivalent to the salary of 10 months).

God accepts other things apart from money as an offering. We can offer stuff that's needed for a specific purpose, our own effort and time...



"having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet." (Acts 4:37)

Barnabas gave a special offering. He sold a piece of land and gave the full amount. He became an example of generosity for others (Acts 4:34-37).

There are many church premises around the world that were donated by people who had such a passion for God's work that they gave their possessions away.

“God does not receive the offerings of any because He needs them and cannot have glory and riches without them, but because it is for the interest of His servants to render to God the things which are His. The freewill offerings of the humble, contrite heart He will receive, and will reward the giver with the richest blessings. He receives them as the sacrifice of grateful obedience. He requires and accepts our gold and silver as an evidence that all we have and are belongs to Him [...] Without pure love the most expensive offering is too poor for God to accept.”

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, book 2, cp. 78, p. 652)