

March 28, 2020

WHEN TO BRING YOUR OFFERINGS?

“When are we expected to bring an offering to God?” Martha asked Jackie, who was giving her Bible studies. “Should it be monthly, every Sabbath, when there is gratitude in my heart, or a call from the pulpit, when I know about a good project, or even when I feel that this is the moment to give? Is there a biblical principle that I could use to determine when I should give offerings?”

“While the Bible says that no one should come before the Lord empty-handed (Deut. 16:16),” said Jackie, “It is also true that the Lord does not expect us to bring anything before He gives us something. Paul says that ‘it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have (2 Cor. 8:12)’. It is God’s giving that should start human giving,” added Jackie.

“Do you mean that we should bring offerings every time we tithe?” questioned Martha. “Well,” said Jackie, “in Malachi 3:8, there is a clear indication that both tithes and offerings are equally required and expected. And the context also shows that not giving any of them would lead to separation from God and material ruin, as well as moral and spiritual decay” (verses 9-12).

“And,” Jackie continued, “Solomon also provides a general principle about the regularity of offerings: ‘Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits [the first part or the best part] of all your increase’ (Prov. 3:8). He means that the regularity with which we honor God should be established by the frequency of the increase or the income, as we do with the tithe. So, tithes and offerings must be given every time there is a blessing (an increase or income), as a reminder that God is the Source of that blessing.”

“God’s messenger for these last days says that ‘this matter of giving is not left to impulse. God has given us definite instruction in regard to it. He has specified tithes and offerings as the measure of our obligation. And He desires us to give regularly and systematically...’” (E.G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 80). “Martha,” asked Jackie, “Would you like to become a Promisor, vowing to also give offerings as regularly as the Lord blesses you?”

APPEAL: As regularly as He blesses us, let us also bring what is due to Him!

PRAYER: Dear Lord! Please, accept what is yours now, in Jesus name, Amen!



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