

## Scriptures and Tradition about Tithing

### **Gen 14: 17-20**

When Abram returned from his defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were allied with him, the king of Sodom went out to greet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He was a priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram with these words: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

### **Gen 28: 19-22**

He named that place Bethel, whereas the former name of the town had been Luz. Jacob then made this vow: "If God will be with me and protect me on this journey I am making and give me food to eat and clothes to wear, and I come back safely to my father's house, the LORD will be my God. This stone that I have set up as a sacred pillar will be the house of God. Of everything you give me, I will return a tenth part to you without fail."

### **Malachi 3: 6-12**

For I, the LORD, do not change, and you, sons of Jacob, do not cease to be. Since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, that I may return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, "Why should we return?" Can anyone rob God? But you are robbing me! And you say, "How have we robbed you?" Of tithes and contributions! You are indeed accursed, for you, the whole nation, rob me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, and see if I do not open the floodgates of heaven for you, and blessing without measure! I will rebuke the locust for you so that it will not destroy your crops, And the vine in the field will not be barren, says the LORD of hosts. All the nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land, says the LORD of hosts.

### **Gospel of Mark 12: 41-44 – The Widow's Mite**

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

### **Matthew 23:23 (cf. Luke 11: 41-42) - Woe to you!**

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. **[But] these you should have done,** *without neglecting the others.*

## Other helpful scriptures related to tithing and giving:

### Old Testament

- **Deuteronomy 14:22-29, Leviticus 27:30** – Tithing as part of the Old Law: The first tenth for the Lord, for the priests/temple, for the poor and the alien.
- **Deuteronomy 26, Nehemiah 10** – Putting God first.
- **Sirach 35:11-13** - Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means.

### New Testament

- **Mark 4:24** – “The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.”
- **Acts 4:32-5:16** – Brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.
- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** – On Sunday, each of you is to make a contribution.
- **2 Corinthians 8:1-15** – They gave according to their means, and beyond their means, according to their own free will.
- **2 Corinthians 9: 7** – “For God loves a cheerful giver”.
- **2 Corinthians 9:11-13** – “You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God Under the test of this service, you will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ, and by the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others.”
- **Galatians 6:6** – “Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him to teaches.”
- **Hebrews 7** – Tithing to Melchizedek

### From TRADITION...

#### **From the life of St. Erik — 12 Century Sweden...**

Erik was to become Sweden's Martyr-King and patron saint. The story goes that on Ascension Day, May 18, 1160, while he was hearing Mass near Uppsala, his men brought word of hostile troops amassing outside the church. Outside, Erik faced a contingent of Danish invaders, joined by rebellious Swedish nobles, angered at the King's insistence that Swedes pay tithes to the Church. After a struggle, Erik was hurled to the ground from his horse, tortured, ridiculed and beheaded. A fresh spring of water with miraculous healing powers sprang out of the soil soaked with his blood.

#### **St. Thomas Aquinas - Summa Theologica II.II.Q87**

**Article 1.** Whether men are bound to pay tithes under a necessity of precept?

**Objection 1.** It would seem that men are not bound by precept to pay tithes....

...**On the contrary**, Augustine says: "It is a duty to pay tithes, and whoever refuses to pay them takes what belongs to another."...

#### **From the Council of Trent**

*Eighth Decree - CHAPTER XII.*

Tithes to be paid in full: those withholding, or hindering, the payment thereof are to be excommunicated: the Rectors of Poor Churches are to be piously relieved....

**whereas the payment of tithes is due to God; and they who refuse to pay them, or hinder those who give them, usurp the property of another. Wherefore, the holy Synod enjoins on all, of whatsoever rank and condition they be, to whom it belongs to pay tithes, that they henceforth pay in full the tithes, to which they are bound in law, to the cathedral church, or to whatsoever other churches, or persons, they are lawfully due. And they who either withhold them, or hinder them (from being paid), shall be excommunicated; nor be absolved from this crime, until after full restitution has been made...**

**1983 Canon Law - Can. 222 §1.** The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers.