

TEXT: MALACHI 3:6-17

THEME: PAYING TITHE TO GOD

PROPOSITION: Tithing attracts God's blessing not paying your tithe will obviously attract God's curse in your life.

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday we learnt a lot in regard to Building on the right foundation which is believing in Jesus Christ. We also learnt that in building it also matters what you build with on this foundation. Whether it is with gold, silver, costly stones, wood or grass each person's quality of work shall be tested with fire. If what a person has done survives, that person will receive rewards. But if it is burned up the person will suffer loss and no reward (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

Paying Tithe to the Lord is one of the items used to build on this foundation. There were two people who were with Jesus. One of the called Peter attracted God's anointing and the other Judas Iscariot attracted curses and committed Suicide. A person can attract curses for failure to pay tithe and a person can attract blessing for faithfully paying tithe to the Lord. If there is anything Africans dread and fear is the power of a curse and especially from an older person like a parent. Luhyas, Kambas, Kisii people, and the Luo are just a few tribes that know and fear the power of a curse than anything else. It also sometimes explains the reason people are so faithful in burial or funeral programs. It is worse to be cursed by God for not paying tithe than just a parent or an ancestor.

WHY DID GOD ESTABLISH THE TITHE? (DEUTERONOMY 26)

1. For Christians (saved and born again people) to show gratitude to God.
(Deuteronomy 26:1-3)

2. For People to remember where God had lifted them from. (Deuteronomy 26:4-6)
3. It was a prayer of Thanks Giving (Deuteronomy 26:7-10)
4. For a believer to enjoy 90% of your income knowing you have given God his due (Deut 26:11)
5. For paying the pastors (Levites) and keep them working in God's temple (Deut 26:12)
6. It was meant to care for the needy and the helpless (Deut 26:13)
7. It was set apart from all secular or worldly purposes including mourning (Deut 26:14)
8. The tithe is a legal basis for God to bless his people (Deut 26:15)
9. The tithe is a test for your obedience (Deut 26:16-17)
10. To create a peculiar and unusual group of prosperous and blessed people (Deut 26:18-19)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ROB GOD? (Malachi 3:8)

1. 10% of your income belongs to God. This means before any deductions are done. Rather whatever is taxed by the government should have had the tithe paid before the taxation. It belongs to God. (Leviticus 27:30)
2. Not paying your tithe is stealing God's property. (Malachi 3:8)
3. The Bible warns thieves not to steal anymore (Ephesians 4:28)
4. There will be no thieves in heaven. (Matthew 6:20)
5. **Stealing the tithe destroys your relationship with God. (Hosea 4:1-2)**
6. Stealing the tithe will result in your demotion (Amos 3:10-11)
7. Withholding the tithe robs the church its ability to function properly.
8. Stealing brings the wrath of God upon you. Ezekiel 22:29-31

SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T PAY TITHES

The reason why many people fail to pay tithes is because they are in a poor spiritual condition. Stopping to pay tithe is often the first sign of spiritual decline.

1. **LOYALTY:** People do not pay tithes because they are not loyal to God. *John 12:4-5 tells us of Judas Iscariot who saw it was wastage to anoint Jesus with expensive oil. The tithes that people pay give us a picture of how loyal members are to the vision of the church.*
2. **REBELLION:** People refuse to pay tithe because they are rebellious. *Just the same way Saul was rebellious and failed to do what God had commanded in 1 Samuel 15:21-23*
3. **SECTIONAL OBEDIENCE TO BIBLE:** People do not pay tithes because they only obey sections of the word of God. *2 Cor 8:7 You need to abound in the grace of tithing as well.*
4. **GREEDY:** People do not pay tithes because they are greedy. Proverbs 1:13,19. **(The story of the greedy man and envious man)**
5. **UNSPIRITUAL MIND:** People do not pay tithes because they are not spiritually minded.
6. **IMMATURITY:** People do not pay tithes because they are immature spiritually. Babies cannot take instructions to pay tithe, they cannot take hard food like adults, they take milk. (Hebrews 5:12, 14)
7. **UNBELIEF:** People do not pay tithe because they do not believe what the Bible says. (Hebrews 3:12. **(The story of the hardened criminal awaiting execution and the priest).**)
8. **BACKSLIDDEN:** People do not pay tithes because they are backslidden. Luke 16:13. No servant can serve two masters... Backsliders do not pay tithes.
9. **LITTLE LOVE FOR GOD:** People fail to give tithe because they have very little love for God. You spent your money on what you love most. Even on someone you love. (1 Chronicles 29:3).
10. **IGNORANCE:** People do not pay tithes because they are ignorant. (Acts 3:17).
11. **FEAR:** People refuse to pay tithes because they are afraid. (Matthew 25:25) the man with one talent was afraid. People are afraid of being poor, *They ask will I*

survive through the month if I pay tithe? Fear is an evil spirit and following fear is following a demon.

12. **TAKING OFFENCE:** People do not pay tithe because they are offended by the pastor and the church leadership and want to punish them. *Not tithing is not robbing the pastor it is robbing God. It does not say will a man rob pastor but asks will a man rob God? Malachi 3:8* **No pastor can reward you for paying your tithes.**
13. **DON'T CARE ATTITUDE ON CHURCH EXISTENCE:** People do not pay tithes because of a don't care attitude of whether the church exists or not. **HAGGAI 1:9-10.** Paying your tithes indicates that you care about the house of God. David desired to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
14. **DON'T CARE WHETHER PASTORS ARE PAID OR NOT:** People do not pay tithes because they do not care whether pastors are paid or not. **1 Corinthians 9:13-14.** *In the days of Nehemiah priests had left the temple and gone farming. Nehemiah 13:10-11 The singers had also left.*
15. **POSTPONMENT:** People do not pay tithes because they have a spirit of postponing things. Procrastination. *I will do it tomorrow or next time or next year or next month. People who postpone things may never get anything done.*
16. **NOT A HABIT:** People do not pay tithes because they have not made it a habit to tithe. It has to start from an early age.
17. **OLD TESTAMENT PRACTICE:** People do not pay tithes because they think it is an Old Testament law and does not apply to them. **However MATTHEW 23:23 Show tithing must also continue in the New Testament.** If we have to forget about the Old Testament, then do not comfort yourself with psalms, don't comfort yourself with stories of Joseph, Job, or Abraham or even Daniel. If we have to do away with the Old Testament it is like destroying the foundation of our faith. Jesus and all the apostles preached from the Old Testament. You may need to break the law of having other gods, committing adultery and stealing because it is an Old Testament law. **(1 Corinthians 16:1-2).**
18. **SUSPICIOUS AND ACCUSATIVE: Proverbs 23:7** People do not pay tithes because they are suspicious and accusative. They don't believe in the servants of God. They fail to listen to the prophetic word. They constantly discuss the pastor behind his back. They don't see why the pastor should have certain privileges. They may have an unspoken standard of living which they do not expect the

pastor to cross. *Anything related to the church must be poor!! So they think. Such negatively minded people will not pay tithes. A positive mind and person breeds good things and will pay tithes knowing he is using his money for a good cause.*

19. **LAZINESS:** People do not pay tithes because they are lazy. **Proverbs 26:15.** Many people are too lazy to bring their tithe to church. **Some pastors have been turned into thieves and extortionists because of lack which has been created by lazy congregants who couldn't be bothered to remember they have to tithe. Some churches have closed down because the pastors took off like in the days of Nehemiah.**
20. **UNGRATEFUL AND FORGETFUL:** People fail to pay tithes because they are forgetful and ungrateful. *They forget from where God has brought them from to what they are now. A spiritual person will want to do something to God to show gratitude for the grace that has lifted him to the current position.*

WHY PEOPLE DO NOT PAY TITHES SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS (Excuses that people give) – For as he thinks so he is (Prov 23:7)

1. I earn too little to pay tithes. *This is what the man who received one talent said (Matt 25:24-25). Jesus gave the example of the widow who gave two silver coins, she was not excused because she was a widow and poor. The poor widow of Zarephath had to give to Elijah food despite her situation and predicament. This is what opened God's blessings of life for her and her son.*
2. I earn too much to pay tithes. *You only earn what God has allowed you to earn and it's not too much. Because you own nothing and all things come from God (1 Chronicles 29:14)*
3. 10% is too much to give so I will not pay tithes. *Tell that to the government and you end up in jail for not paying taxes. God is not a fool and cannot be mocked (Galatians 6:7).*
4. I am not a fool to pay tithes. *Mainly this is as a result of being filled with a negative thought. Philipians 4:8.*

5. My hard earned cash is not used properly so I will not pay tithes. *In mature giving according to the Jewish law you give without knowing who receives the money.*
6. The pastors use our hard earned money to buy cars and live extravagant lifestyle. *Judas Iscariot thought the same when he saw the expensive oil being poured on Jesus. (John 12:3-6) Such people think that good things are not meant for the pastors.*
7. I will not pay my tithe because all pastors are thieves and con men. *This is the same as crucifying the thief and the pastor together just as pastor Jesus Christ was crucified with the thief. Isaiah 5:20 shows it is a sin to call evil good and good evil.*
8. I am broke so I cannot pay tithes. World Bank in 2001 estimated that 2.7 billion people (half of the world) were living below the poverty line earning less than \$60 a month. But God will test your priorities on whether you will put Him first above all else. (Deut 26:14).
9. I am building a house so I cannot pay tithe. *Building God's house comes first above all things. You may enter into the curse of Haggai 1:2-6. Never completing your project, Never occupying what you built, building only for someone else to enjoy it, never paying off your mortgage.*
10. I have a funeral to fund so I cannot pay my tithes. *Do people with funerals and bereaved pay taxes every month? (Deut 26:14)*
11. I have a lot of debts so I cannot pay tithes. *If you continue treating God and His work as a non-essential you there are curses upon you.*
12. I am a widow. (Even widows are required to obey the Lord) Mark 12:41-43.
13. I am a student and so cannot pay tithe. Do students eat food? Do they buy and wear clothes? Do they have money to use? All students receive some income of some sort and are equally required to tithe. *Proverbs 3:9. Honor the lord with your substance.*

14. I am unemployed so I cannot pay tithes. *But do you eat? Do you buy and wear clothes? Do you travel? Where do you get the money to do those things? Luke 16:10 says He that is faithful with that which is least is also faithful in much: he that is unfaithful in the least is also unjust in much.*
15. **I give my money to the poor so I do not need to pay tithes. *Matthew 23:23 says these you ought to have done without leaving the other undone (Which is Tithing).***
16. I don't want people to know how much I earn. Nobody is interested to know how much you earn. Secondly there are many people who know how much you earn. These include your bank, Your work place, NSSF, NHIF and colleagues. How come these people know how much you earn and it's not a problem to you. *These are imaginary obstacles of refusing to pay your tithes.*
17. When I pay tithes I do not see any financial improvement in my life so I will not pay tithes. *God is not a robot or computer where you give commands, press a button and things happen. Malachi 3:14. When God told Adam he shall surely die when he eats the forbidden fruit, Adam did not die instantly the physical death. When God promises blessings he may not do it instantly but it may mean many things.*

WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO FAIL TO PAY TITHES? MALACHI 3:6-8

1. Those who do not tithe may become poor because they have nothing to harvest. (Hosea 8:7) *For they have sown the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind.*
2. Non-tithers become poor because they do not attract blessings on their lives. (Malachi 3:10)
3. Those who don't tithe become poor because they are cursed. (Malachi 3:8-9)
4. Those who don't tithe become poor because devourers constantly eat their wealth. (Malachi 3:11)
5. Non-tithers become poor because the fruits of their fields are constantly destroyed. (Malachi 3:11).

6. Those who fail to tithe become poor because they lose their fruits before getting a chance to harvest. (Malachi 3:11).

THERE ARE CURSES THAT FOLLOW THOSE WHO DON'T TITHE.

A cursed person:

- a) Is someone who will experience persistent frustration.
- b) Someone who is behind and below in everything and a persistent failure.
- c) It is someone on whom a specific evil has been invoked.
- d) Someone who is rejected and never chosen.
- e) Not able to redirect his life in a positive direction.
- f) Someone who is constantly assigned the bad portion and encounters bad people.
- g) It is someone who is always last and ends as the loser no matter how he starts.

Those who don't tithe:

- 1. Are cursed with curses of prophet Malachi (Malachi 3:8-9)
- 2. Are cursed with the curse that comes on thieves because they are robbing God. Zachariah 5:3-4. And those who dare to steal from God because they eyes of the Lord are everywhere beholding good and evil. Proverbs 15:3
- 3. They are cursed with curses that come upon those who break the law. They are outlined in Deuteronomy 27:26 and Deuteronomy 28:20. There are curses upon children and material prosperity which you must watch out for when you don't pay your tithes.
- 4. There are thirty curses more of sickness, crop failure, war, captivity, business failure and poverty for all who break the law. Deuteronomy 28:21-29.
- 5. There are 26 new and repeated curses of defeat, captivity, sickness, persecution and insanity for law breakers.
- 6. Those who fail to pay tithes are cursed with the curse that come son those who repay God's goodness with evil

7. Those who don't pay tithe are classified as ungrateful. Ungrateful people have been cursed with twenty seven curses mentioned in Psalm 109.
8. Those who fail to pay tithes are cursed with the curse of closed heavens.
Deut 28:23

God established the tithe for people to show gratitude to Him as per Deuteronomy 26. God established the tithe for people to remember from where He had lifted them from. It was a prayer of thanksgiving to God. You would enjoy 90% of your income knowing you have paid God His due. The tithe was to pay the pastors (Levites) and keep them working in the temple. The tithe was established to test your obedience to God and also as a legal basis for God to bless His people and make them prosperous on earth. Those who pay their tithe faithfully to God will attract God's blessings that go with it. As per Malachi 3:10.