

STEWARDSHIP 101-3

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Lessons of the Manna - Exodus 16

What if God just dropped us “money” from the sky?

What does this passage teach us about:

- The Character of God?
- The character of the Israelites?
- God’s Purposes in providing the Manna?
- Why are the conditions God attached to its collection and consumption?

We find here that God is quite benevolent to a mostly rebellious and disobedient people. Ever concerned to maintain his Character, he manifests his sovereign and loving power in providing food for the people up until they entered the promised land, despite many provocations.

There are in this story clear allusions to the Sabbath (Lord’s Day) as a day set apart; to the work that goes into gathering the manna which God rains down from heaven – which proves equally sufficient for all – and God’s concern that the poor and needy might not be lacking.

Manna: Exodus 16; Numbers 11:6; Joshua 5:12; Nehemiah 9:20; John 6:49; 1 Corinthians 10:3; Rev 2:17

Some Principles:

The goodness of God stands out – His compassion and purpose is to provide for the needs of His people. And to proclaim His Glory.

There is an element of testing here – as the inner attitudes of the heart are manifested towards God’s goodness. When we misuse His resources, we reap the consequences – they spoil, or we waste our efforts. (Note the “Sabbath” here predates the Fourth Commandment of the Law)

God has a say over how we use the resources He gives to us – we are accountable and responsible for them. There is work involved in the gathering. Some gathered little and some a lot – but there was enough for all. All the resources God gives to us belong to Him and His people.

God’s “demands” are also sources of blessings for us. The sabbath and tithe and good works He expects are designated for the needs of His people, and are meant to be enjoyed – not grumbled about.

God’s Sovereign “Claims” on His Stewards:

As to remind us of His ownership of our resources, God asks for a portion

Time	Treasure	Talents
Sabbath 1/7	Tithe 1/10	Good Works
God’s is sovereignty over Our time; Our work; and our worship and our rest.	The Tithe was used for: Celebrating (worshiping) God Supporting God’s ministry Providing for the needy and poor (Especially the third years’)	Good works – benevolences – not just to God’s people – but to others as well especially the poor and needy are God’s constant concern.
There was also a seventh year “Sabbath” for resting the land – and a deliverance from debt and a seventieth year of Jubilee.	There were also special offerings Beyond the tithe. There is an emphasis on a generous and cheerful giver.	As God enables us with abilities and provides opportunities – we are to manifest His love to all men.
Gen 2:3; Exo 20:8-11; 23:12; 31:15; Lev 25:1-5; Deut 5:15; Isa 58:13-14; Neh 10:31;	Gen 14:17-20; Gen 28:22; Exo 22:28-31a; Exo 25:1-2, Lev 27:30-31; Deut 14:22-27; 1 Chron 29:10-19; 2 Chron 31:5; Amos 4:4; Neh 10:33-39; Mal 3:8-12	Exo 19:4-6; Lev 19: 9-18; Deut 15:7-18; Prov 11:25; 22:9; 25:21; Micah 6:8; Isa 58:7,10
Matt 12:12; Mark 2:27-28; Col 2:16; Hebr 4:9	Matt 23:23; Luke 18:12; Acts 4:32 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8,9	Matt 5:16, Col 1:10; Eph 2:10; 1 Tim 6:18; Tit 3:7; Hebr 10:24; 1 Pet 2:12; Acts 9:36