

Living The Blessed Life
Life, Not by Force
Genesis 2:15-17

Introduction - God has called us to be faithful stewards, not owners. Being faithful brings **LIFE**.

Question: If something was wrong under the Law, is it now right under **GRACE**? ...Turn the question around!

I. Tithing Is A **TEST** - Matthew 6:21

- Hearts follow the treasure
- A “tithing” means “tenth”, the number 10 represents “Testing” in scripture:
 - 10 plagues in Egypt to test Pharaoh’s heart
 - 10 Commandments to test obedience
 - Wilderness wanderings, Jacob with Laban and Daniel - All 10
- Also a test for God - Malachi 3:10

II. Obedience And The **CURSE**

- What Christ Did - Galatians 3:13-14; 1 Peter 2:24, Matthew 8:17
- Yet we still sin and get sick; feeling the effects of the curse
- God’s promise - Malachi 3:11

III. Law And **GRACE**

- Grace always exceeds the Law - Matthew 5:17-20
- When Jesus points out an Old Covenant Law, He then sets a higher standard under New Covenant Grace
- Example: Old-murder/ New-angry; Old-adultery/ New-lustfully look

IV. A **HEART** Matter

- Jacob’s heart change - Genesis 28:22
- The tithe is holy/ separated to God - Leviticus 27:30;
 - Deuteronomy 26:1-2, 13-14
- Jesus confirmation - Matthew 23:23

V. Think Of What **COULD** Be! - 2 Chronicles 31:4-10

Conclusion - May we be **GOOD** stewards! - Matthew 25:29

All scripture is from the HCSB unless otherwise noted.