**PEOPLE HAVE TAUGHT THAT TITHING IS NOT A PART OF THE NEW TESTAMENT… AND I’M GOING TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT IN LESS THAN 5 MINUTES**

1. **WE’RE NOT UNDER THE LAW, BUT THE LAW DOES POINT TO JESUS**

**Deuteronomy 26:1–3 (NKJV)** “And it shall be, when you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance… you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground… and you shall **go to the one who is priest in those days**…”

1. **THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES US THAT JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST TODAY**

**Hebrews 3:1 (NKJV)** “Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.”

1. **FATHER GOD PROMISED THAT HE WOULD MAKE JESUS A BETTER PRIEST THAN THE LEVITICAL PRIESTS**

**Psalm 110:1–4 (NKJV)** The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” … the Lord has sworn … “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

1. **THE BOOK OF HEBREWS CONFIRMS—SIX TIMES—THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS IS NOT A LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES, BUT A PRIESTHOOD OF MELCHIZEDEK’S ORDER. LET ME SHOW YOU:**

**ONE… Hebrews 5:5–6 (NKJV)** “Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but [God] said to Him… “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

**TWO… Hebrews 5:10 (NKJV)** “[Jesus is] called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek.”

**THREE… Hebrews 6:20 (NKJV)** “The forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

**FOUR… Hebrews 7:11 (NKJV)** “If perfection were through the Levitical priesthood … what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek?”

**FIVE… Hebrews 7:17 (NKJV)** “[God] testifies: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

**SIX… Hebrews 7:21 (NKJV)** “[God said to Jesus]: “The Lord has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’”

1. **WHY IS THE HOLY SPIRIT REITERATING THIS TO US? FIRST, BECAUSE THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTLY ORDER DOESN’T DO ALL THE THINGS THAT LEVITICAL PRIESTS DO (FOR EXAMPLE, THEY DON’T SACRIFICE LAMBS FOR US… JESUS BECAME THE ONLY SACRIFICIAL LAMB WE’LL EVER NEED)… AND SECOND, THERE ARE IMPORTANT THINGS THAT PRIESTS OF MELCHIZEDEK’S ORDER DO.**
2. **WE ONLY SEE MELCHIZEDEK SHOW UP ONCE BY THAT NAME IN THE BIBLE, AND IT’S COVERED IN THREE VERSES… SO IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD, YOU NEED TO READ GENESIS 14:18-20, AND HERE’S WHAT IT SAYS:**

**Genesis 14:18–20 (NKJV)** Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. **19** And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; **20** And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.

1. **SO WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT MELCHIZEDEK DID FOUR THINGS AS PRIEST:**
   1. **HE BROUGHT OUT BREAD AND WINE… THE COVENANT MEAL… COMMUNION… HMM… JESUS DID THAT**
   2. **MELCHIZEDEK BLESSED ABRAHAM…. HMM… JESUS BLESSES US**
   3. **MELCHIZEDEK BLESSED FATHER GOD… HMM… WE’VE SEEN JESUS DO THAT MANY TIMES**
   4. **AND MELCHIZEDEK RECEIVED TITHE FROM ABRAHAM… SO WAIT, ARE YOU SAYING THAT JESUS IS A PRIEST OF MELCHIZEDEK’S ORDER, BUT HE ONLY DOES THREE OF THE FOUR THINGS THAT MELCHIZEDEK DID AND LEAVES THE FOURTH ONE UNDONE? REALLY? IF THAT’S TRUE, THEN SURELY THE NEW TESTAMENT WOULD IGNORE THAT PART OF MELCHIZEDEK’S PRIESTHOOD AND NOT DRAW ATTENTION TO IT. BUT THE EXACT OPPOSITE IS TRUE. THE WRITER OF HEBREWS SPENDS MORE TIME TALKING ABOUT THE TITHE THAT MELCHIZEDEK RECEIVED THAN THE OTHER THREE COMBINED! COULD IT BE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT KNEW THAT THIS WOULD BE THE ONE PEOPLE MOST WANTED TO IGNORE?**
2. **LET’S FINISH THIS BRIEF LESSON BY READING A PORTION OF THE FIRST 8 VERSES IN HEBREWS 7 WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TEACHING US ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD OF MELCHIZEDEK TO SHOW US HOW TO RELATE TO JESUS:**

**Hebrews 7:1–8 (NKJV)** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, **2** to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all**…** consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. **5** And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes … **6** but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. **7** Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. **8** Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

1. **LOOK AT VERSE 8 AGAIN… “HERE MORTAL MEN—HUMAN BEINGS—RECEIVE TITHES, BUT THERE HE RECEIVES THEM OF WHOM IT IS WITNESSED THAT HE LIVES.” HERE ON EARTH, USHERS, CHURCH LEADERS, ETC. RECEIVE TITHES, BUT THERE… IN HEAVEN… JESUS RECEIVES THEM… NOTICE THE PHRASE, “OF WHOM IT IS WITNESSED THAT HE LIVES.” JESUS IS THE PRIMARY PERSON THE BIBLE ASSERTS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD AND LIVES.**
2. **YOU MAY SAY, “NO, VERSE 8 IS SPEAKING OF MELCHIZEDEK.” AND THAT BRINGS A BIG SMILE TO MY FACE AS I ASK YOU, “AND WHY IS THIS PASSAGE TEACHING THE BODY OF CHRIST ABOUT HOW MELCHIZEDEK RECEIVES TITHES?” THERE’S ONLY ONE REASON… AND HE AFFIRMED IT SIX TIMES… BECAUSE JESUS IS A PRIEST ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK, SO WHATEVER HE’S TEACHING US ABOUT MELCHIZEDEK, HIS POINT IS THAT JESUS FUNCTIONS THE SAME WAY.**
3. **IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE BRING OUR TITHE TO THE HOUSE OF GOD, BUT JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST RECEIVES THEM… I REST MY CASE!**

Jesus’ Gifts

**You Are A Gift**

July 31, 2022

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO TWO PLACES… EPHESIANS 1 AND MARK 1**

**Mark 1:14–18 (NKJV)** Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, **15** and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” **16** And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. **17** Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” **18** They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

**IN VERSE 17 JESUS SAID, “FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU BECOME FISHERS OF MEN.” … YOU FISH FOR FISH NOW… BUT IF YOU FOLLOW ME I’LL MAKE YOU A FISHER OF PEOPLE… THEY IMMEDIATELY QUIT THEIR FISHING BUSINESS AND FOLLOWED JESUS… ONE OF THOSE TWO FISHERMEN WAS SIMON PETER… AND ABOUT TWO AND A HALF YEARS LATER… ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE FIRST CHURCH… HE BROUGHT 3,000 SOULS INTO THE KINGDOM, AND HE WENT ON TO WIN AND DISCIPLE COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.**

**INTRODUCTION**

**WHAT IF IT WASN’T ONLY SPECIAL PEOPLE WHO WERE CALLED TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR GOD? WHAT IF WE WERE ALL CALLED TO DO GREAT THINGS? WHAT IF YOU ARE? WHAT IF JESUS WAS SPEAKING TO YOU TODAY AND SAYING, “FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU BECOME FISHERS OF MEN?” WHAT WOULD YOU DO? WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DROP WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY TO FOLLOW HIM, OR WOULD YOU DISCOUNT YOURSELF AND PRESUME YOU DON’T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?**

**NOTICE, JESUS DIDN’T SAY, “YOU’RE ALREADY A GREAT FISHER OF PEOPLE, AND NOW I’M TELLING YOU THAT YOU DON’T HAVE TO HIDE IT ANYMORE… YOU CAN SHOW EVERYONE HOW GOOD YOU ARE.” NO… THAT’S NOT WHAT HE SAID. HE SAID, “FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU BECOME FISHERS OF MEN.” IN OTHER WORDS, BY FOLLOWING ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOU IS GOING TO CHANGE, AND YOU WILL BECOME A SUPERNATURALLY FRUITFUL PERSON.**

**FRIENDS, THAT’S WHAT JESUS IS SAYING TO US TODAY… TO YOU TODAY. AND I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO RESPOND LIKE THESE EARLY DISCIPLES AND DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO FOLLOW HIM.**

**LET’S TURN TO EPHESIANS 1**

**Ephesians 1:1 (NKJV)** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

**Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**“WE” MEANS EVERY ONE OF US**

**Ephesians 4:7–12 (NKJV)** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. **8** Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.” **9** (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? **10** He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) **11** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

**EVERY ONE OF YOU IS EITHER AN APOSTLE, A PROPHET, AN EVANGELIST, A PASTOR (SHEPHERD), A TEACHER, OR A COMBINATION OF MORE THAN ONE.**

**GOD IS CALLING EVERY ONE OF US TO MINISTRY.**

**GOD IS DOING MIRACLES THROUGH HOUSE CHURCHES AND THE MINISTRY IN HOMES.**

**EX – Some gifts are given just for fun… sometimes as a gesture of love and kindness… but Jesus gives gifts that we really need.**

**TESTIMONY VIDEO – JAVIER NUNEZ**

**LET’S START GROUPS RIGHT AWAY… LET’S TRANSITION GROUPS INTO HOUSE CHURCHES RIGHT AWAY…**

**HERE’S HOW TO DO IT.**