

## **The Truth about Giving Part 2: God's Provision**

### **Part 1 Review:**

We learned last time we got together:

- What the tithe was under the Mosaic Law
- Who benefited from it
- Where it went
- Christ's perspective on it

### **Numbers 35:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> *On the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Command the Israelites to give the Levites towns to live in from the inheritance the Israelites will possess. And give them pasturelands around the towns. <sup>3</sup> Then they will have towns to live in and pasturelands for their cattle, flocks and all their other livestock.*

### **Deut 15:11**

<sup>11</sup>*There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded towards your brothers and towards the poor and needy in your land.*

### **Mark 14:3-7**

<sup>3</sup>*While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.*

<sup>4</sup>Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup>It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

<sup>6</sup>"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.

**So how did God set things up under the Mosaic Law so that the poor among them would be taken care of?**

- Through the tithes and sacrifices to the temple
- Through the Sabbatical Year
- During the Year of Jubilee
- By not allowing interest to be charged on loans
- By setting up a year where all debts were cancelled
- Gleaning in the fields of the wealthy

## **The Sabbatical Year**

### **Exodus 23:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> "For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, <sup>11</sup> but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what they leave. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.

### **Leviticus 25:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses on Mount Sinai, <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. <sup>3</sup> For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. <sup>4</sup> But in the seventh year the land is to have a sabbath of rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. <sup>5</sup> Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. <sup>6</sup> Whatever the land yields

during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your manservant and maidservant, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you,<sup>7</sup> as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.

## **The Year of Jubilee**

### **Leviticus 25:8-28**

<sup>8</sup> " 'Count off seven sabbaths of years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years.<sup>9</sup> Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land.<sup>10</sup> Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan.<sup>11</sup> The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines.<sup>12</sup> For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.

<sup>13</sup> " 'In this Year of Jubilee everyone is to return to his own property.

<sup>14</sup> " 'If you sell land to one of your countrymen or buy any from him, do not take advantage of each other.<sup>15</sup> You are to buy from your countryman on the basis of the number of years since the Jubilee. And he is to sell to you on the basis of the number of years left for harvesting crops.<sup>16</sup> When the years are many, you are to increase the price, and when the years are few, you are to decrease the price, because what he is really selling you is the number of crops.<sup>17</sup> Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the LORD your God.

<sup>18</sup> " 'Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land.<sup>19</sup> **Then** the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live there in safety.<sup>20</sup> You may ask, "What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not plant or harvest our crops?"<sup>21</sup> I will send you such a blessing in the sixth year that the land will yield enough for three years.<sup>22</sup> While you plant during the eighth year, you will eat from the old crop and will continue to eat from it until the harvest of the ninth year comes in.<sup>23</sup> " 'The land must not be sold permanently, because the

land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants<sup>24</sup> Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.

<sup>25</sup> "If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold. <sup>26</sup> If, however, a man has no one to redeem it for him but he himself prospers and acquires sufficient means to redeem it, <sup>27</sup> he is to determine the value for the years since he sold it and refund the balance to the man to whom he sold it; he can then go back to his own property. <sup>28</sup> But if he does not acquire the means to repay him, what he sold will remain in the possession of the buyer until the Year of Jubilee. It will be returned in the Jubilee, and he can then go back to his property.

## **Year of Cancelled Debt**

### **Deuteronomy 15:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts. <sup>2</sup> This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel the loan he has made to his fellow Israelite. He shall not require payment from his fellow Israelite or brother, because the LORD's time for canceling debts has been proclaimed. <sup>3</sup> You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you. <sup>4</sup> However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, <sup>5</sup> if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today<sup>6</sup> For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

<sup>7</sup> If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. <sup>8</sup> Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup> Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. <sup>10</sup> Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; **then because of this** the LORD your God will bless you in all your

*work and in everything you put your hand to.<sup>11</sup> There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.*

## **No Interest Charged**

### **Leviticus 25:35-38**

*<sup>35</sup> " If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. <sup>36</sup> Do not take interest of any kind from him, but fear your God, so that your countryman may continue to live among you. <sup>37</sup> You must not lend him money at interest or sell him food at a profit. <sup>38</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.*

### **Leviticus 25:39-43**

*<sup>39</sup> " If one of your countrymen becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave. <sup>40</sup> He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. <sup>41</sup> Then he and his children are to be released, and he will go back to his own clan and to the property of his forefathers. <sup>42</sup> Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. <sup>43</sup> Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God.*

### **Deuteronomy 23:19-20**

*<sup>19</sup> Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. <sup>20</sup> You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a brother Israelite, so that the LORD your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to in the land you are entering to possess.*

## **Gleaning in the Fields of the Wealthy**

### **Leviticus 19:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> " When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.*

### **Deuteronomy 24:19-22**

*<sup>19</sup> When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. <sup>20</sup> When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. <sup>21</sup> When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. <sup>22</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.*

## **Ruth**

### **2 Thessalonians 3:6-10**

*<sup>6</sup>In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup>We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."*