

Dead Men Walking (Part One)

Series – Authentic: Real Faith That Fits Real Life
– Matthew 23:23-24 –

Two part message:

1. Beware of the Deception of a Selective Obedience (vss. 23-24)
2. Beware of the Deception of a Surface Only Faith (vss. 25-28)

1. The Deception of a Selective Obedience

Jesus' Illustration: TITHING

DEVOTION OR DOLLARS?

ATTITUDES are always more important than AMOUNTS.

Our giving should demonstrate LOVE not LAW.

TWO SUMMARY PRINCIPLES:

1. It's easy to tithe and yet miss out on what's really important.

"You should have practiced the latter..."

2. Tithing reminds me of who's in charge of my life.

"...without neglecting the former."

"But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in the grace of giving."

– II Corinthians 8:7

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. Why is money such a critical issue to God? How does the way we spend our money reveal the condition of our hearts?
3. How would you gauge your attitude toward giving? Does it tend to reflect more of a "Jesus-tax" attitude, or are you enjoying the privilege of giving with joy?
4. How have you seen God's faithfulness in providing for you and your family during seasons of less financial prosperity?
5. After carefully reading through 2 Cor. 8-9, noting how Paul encourages generosity, how would you compare his message with the fundraising letters and appeals of today you have received?
6. For Christians in general today, what would you say is the hardest thing about learning/obeying the guidelines presented in II Cor. 8:7 and 9:7?

