*Wednesday, July 20, 2011*

**The Grand Illusion**

Luke 18:10-12 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. (12) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (KJV)

I have had people ask me where I stand on the topic of tithing, and the answer is simple, that it is not something that we see mentioned in the epistles. Greedy, low life, so called ministers keep trying to magically make it reappear so that they can dupe the congregation into thinking that the more they give the more they get. As we see illustrated above, a Pharisee thought his works, which included tithing, would impress our Lord.

Luke 18:13-14 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (KJV)

I don’t get it Church, why are so many getting pointed back to works instead of a simple faith in what our Lord said would work? We see clearly illustrated above the new way trumping the old. However, if one looks around you see so many who try to put tithing back into play, thinking that God is more concerned with their financial outcome rather than the fact that He sent His Son to die for our Spiritual eternal outcome.

Matthew 23:16-18 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! (17) Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? (18) And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. (KJV)

You know, when you listen to a lot of the doctrines today man keeps more emphasis on the outward riches rather than the eternal inward ones. Many today seem more concerned with what they can get out of the people rather than what the Lord has asked them to be feeding them with, and that would be the truth.

Luke 11:39-42 And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. (40) Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? (41) But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. (42) But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. (KJV)

Today it is pretty much same o, same o; reading your Bible, rightly dividing the word of truth, walking by faith, yeah not such a big deal. But man o man don’t you dare forget that tithing stuff or our Lord will come down on you big time.

Hebrews 7:5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: (KJV)

Folks, tithing is old school, old law stuff, just like the priests and the priesthood. We have the highest priest seated at the right hand of God which gives us access to the throne of God always. Besides, when you look at the definition of tithing it means ten percent. The question is, do you want ten percent of what God has to offer or do you desire the complete package?

Luke 18:22-24 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. (23) And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. (24) And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! (KJV)

So someone told you that if you tithed a whole bunch of loot you would get a whole bunch back, like a hundred times as much? If being rich is so great, how come our Lord didn’t promote it more?