

Soft Hands and Open Hearts: Part II
Veritas Class
June 23, 2013

A. Introduction to 14:22-15:29

B. The Tithe: Soft hands and open hearts toward God (14:22-29)

1. **The Annual Tithe Festival: An Invitation to a Banquet (14:22-26)**
2. **The Triennial Tithe Festival (14:27-29)**
 - a. The Focus of Attention
 - b. The Location of the Deposit of the Tithe
 - c. The Timing of the Tithe
 - d. The Additional Beneficiaries of the Tithe
3. The Ordinance in Later Texts
 - a. The Tithe: Malachi 3:7-12
 - b. The Banquet: Isaiah 1:10-17; Hosea 6:6; Amos 5:21-24
 - c. The Point: Compassion (2 Kings 4:1-7)
 - d. The New Testament (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42)
4. The Relevance of the Tithe Ordinances for Christians
 - a. The Tithe as a Pre-Israelite Custom
 - b. The Declared Functions of the Tithe in Israel
 - (1) Practically, it provided a means to support priests and other cultic personnel.
 - (2) Socially, it was a means of securing the well-being of the poor.
 - (3) Spiritually, it provided a means for expressing godliness: demonstrating gratitude, pure faith, and reverence toward God.
 - (4) Communally, it provided a pre-condition for God's blessing.
 - c. The Primary Points of Our Text:
 - (1) God delights in fellowship.
 - (2) God delights in generosity toward him and those in need
 - d. Generosity and Charity in the New Testament
 - (1) Luke 21:1-4 (The Widow's Fragment (
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 9:7 (God loves a cheerful giver.)
 - (3) Philippians 4:14-18

C. Soft Hands and Open Hearts Toward the Poor (15:1-11)

1. Introduction to the Passage
 - a. Its Structure
 - (1) Moses' Announcement of the Policy Regarding the Poor (vv. 1-3)
 - (2) Moses' Plea to Adopt the Policy Regarding the Poor (vv. 4-11)
 - (a) Israel's Future Economic Ideal (vv. 4-6)
 - (b) Israel's Future Economic Reality (vv. 7-11)
 - b. Its Tone: More than 80% (158/194 words) of space devoted to the appeal.

2. Explanation
 - a. Moses' Announcement of the Policy Regarding the Poor (vv. 1-3)
 - (1) What does "at the end of seven years" mean?
 - (2) What does the expression "to do *shemittah*" mean?
 - (3) What are the terms of the policy?
 - (a) Israelite creditors are to release their claims on their neighbors.
 - (b) Israelite creditors may not pressure their neighbor because the time of remission is near.
 - (c) Israelites may continue to pressure foreigners (cf. Gal 6:10)
 - (d) Israelite creditors are to release their claims on their neighbors.
 - b. Moses' Plea to Adopt the Policy Regarding the Poor (vv. 4-11)