

Weekly Study Guide

The week of June 15, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	<p>Leviticus 27:30-32</p> <p>This is the first passage in the Bible about tithing. It's obviously written in ancient context, different from our own. What were the Israelites expected to do?</p>
Tuesday	<p>Numbers 18:21, 25-29</p> <p>This passage is from the same ancient context. The Levites were the tribe of Israelites who worked in the temple. They were supported by the tithe-gifts from the rest of Israel. They in turn gave tithe-gifts to the priests, a smaller set of Levites with special responsibilities. What seems to be the practical reason for these tithes to be given?</p>
Wednesday	<p>Deuteronomy 14:27-29</p> <p>This passage reinforces the tithe the Israelites gave to the Levites (and priests). It also introduces a second kind of tithe, given particularly to support the poor. How are the "aliens, the fatherless, and the widows" cared for today?</p>
Thursday	<p>Luke 11:39-42</p> <p>Jesus is criticizing the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. How would you summarize what he wanted from and for them?</p>
Friday	<p>2 Corinthians 8:1-15</p> <p>These are instruction from the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth about sharing with the Christians in Jerusalem who were in a famine. This is different from a regular "tithe." What important principles are at work here?</p>
Saturday	<p>1 Corinthians 16:1-4</p> <p>This passage is about the same collection for the Christians struggling in Jerusalem. The "letters of introduction" in v. 3 are meant to verify the authenticity of the people carrying them. Why are security protocols like this a good idea in general?</p>

first lutheran church

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