

ISRAEL - YOU CYNICAL, OR WHAT?

"I have an idea", said Bill. "See the lambs in this pen over here? No use to anyone, and if we take them to market, we'll get a measly €20 for each one. Look at them, they're as thin as they come, speckled skin, and quite a few with peg legs. You know how much we can get for our best lambs, don't you Fred?"

Fred knew very well that the finest looking lambs would easily fetch €100, or more at the market. They were the best in every way, perfect even. He could see Bill's point alright, it seemed such a terrible waste to burn the best. With the wages of priests, not the best these days, a few more pounds in the pocket could be quite useful. All the same, there was something that just didn't feel quite right about this idea.

"What do you think, Fred?" Said Bill. "Well, I'm not quite sure about this," replied Fred hesitantly, wondering if God might just have a very good reason why it was to be a perfect lamb on the altar. "Oh, come on, it's a no-brainer," said Bill impatiently. "In the end, an offering is burnt, both end up as ash, no big deal! It's not as if the Lord would ever refuse our offering..."

And the Lord said:

"Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand." (Malachi 1:10).

BEING HONEST WITH GOD

- **'Motives of the Heart' 3-minute video** with John Matthews who asks, "What does it mean to be honest?"



LESSON 7. HONESTY WITH GOD BY JOHN MATHEWS

Stewardship Ministries videos of the Sabbath School Adult Lesson Study Guide for the 1st Quarter of 2018 by John Mathews, author of the lessons. Use these ...

WATCH VIDEO

- **From South Pacific Division Stewardship Ministries, comes another lesson commentary** - this week with a bit of a tongue-twister: "God asks us to give the right percentage, in the right priority, to the right person, for the right purpose, and to the right place." Say that quickly a few times, and it could create a memorable, fun-filled, learning moment.



- **5 Q's for Life Change**

This week's study: What is the truth about God? What are those mysteries? A study focussing on 1 Corinthians 4:1-2.

From this week's notes - Five characteristics of the Spirit-filled Christian:

- *The Spirit-filled Christian does not live by the principle of 10% (the obligation of tithe). He lives by the principle of 100%.*
- *His life is a reflection of God the Lover and God the Giver.*
- *He recognises he has been bought with a price and therefore glorifies God in every aspect of his life (1 Corinthians 6:20).*
- *A Spirit-filled Christian recognises that everything he possesses belongs to God... 'Every loaf of bread is stamped with the Cross of Christ'; therefore, all he possesses is available at all times for God's use.*
- *This way of life is true honesty with God. Not just mindful of our duties and obligations, but to be always available for whatever God requires of us.*

Lesson Notes (attached): Created for those who want to dig deeper into the Word.

Authored by Shevanthi Bastiam Pillai. Class teacher or group leader? Don't miss these studies for providing both breadth and depth.

All video introductions for this series of lessons can be found at:

<https://stewardship.adventist.org/online-videos?channel=1326917>

AND FINALLY

Millions of Christians around the world this week, will begin the season of Lent, a season of reflection and preparation before Easter, including a time of self-discipline. It's not a tradition Adventists practise, but I am intrigued by an idea from 40Acts.org.uk, which gives an invitation over the next 40 days to commit each day to doing an act of kindness for someone

Every day from today (February 14th), wake up to a new generosity challenge and short Bible-based blog straight to your inbox. Each act is designed to sharpen your awareness and give you practical ways to stretch your faith as well as your generosity, with three challenge levels.

Find out more at: <https://40acts.org.uk/> Thanks to Karen Holford for sharing this link.

Enjoy life at its best, with a generous spirit.

Cheers and best wishes,

David

David Neal | Stewardship Director

Faithful stewardship – more than a merely optional Christian grace.