

The Levites

What about you?

How do you feel about living on the gifts of others?

- uncomfortable?
- frightened?
- it's not fair?
- excited?
- privileged?
- other ...?

If your answer was one of the first three listed, then remember that the rest of the Israelites were to give support to the Levites as part of their worship of the God who provided for them. This is still true today: you receive your income as part of God's people's worship of him.

How does this make you feel?

If your answer was one of the last two listed, then remember that the Levites were not chosen by God to minister full-time and live on the gifts of others because they were more spiritual or more gifted than the rest of the Israelites. It is an exciting privilege to be supported in God's work by the gifts of others, but it is never a cause for arrogance or spiritual superiority.

How does this make you feel?

Verse

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. [COLOSSIANS 3:23-24]



Prayer – use this prayer or write your own:

Father, I admit that I'm uncomfortable (or whatever other emotion fits you) with the prospect of raising support and living on the gifts of others. Thank you that it isn't a new thing, but it has always been your chosen way to fund your mission in the world. Please help me to become excited by sharing in this privilege. Amen

For further reflection

If you are living on the gifts of others, is it wrong to save some of this money for your pension, or for your children? Look at 1 TIMOTHY 5:8. How does this influence your decision about saving for your family's future needs?

The Levites were not exempt from offering to God the best of what they received from the rest of God's people [Numbers 18:25-32]. Receivers are still to be givers too.