Week 5 - 9-18-24 EQUIP - Healthy Stewards Pass the Bless Test

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1 Sermon Ideas and Talking Points

APPLICATION

PRAY

RECAP:

Week 1 - Who's the Owner

Week 2 - Healthy Stewards Are Blessed

Week 3 - Principle of First

Week 4 - Good Stewards Reject Mammon and Accept God

APPLICATION

Healthy Stewards Pass the Test

Ready for your test?

What Test?

Didn’t you know there was a test tonight?

You are actually tested daily.

Each time you get paid, or receive resources and provisions, or new, deeper anointing.

You are always receiving the Bless Test on how you will choose to steward your relationship with God.

What's the Test?

[10] Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,”
Says the Lord of hosts,
“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you *such* blessing
That *there will* not *be room* enough *to receive it.*
[11] “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”
Says the Lord of hosts;
Malachi 3:10-11 (NKJV)

2

APPLICATION

In Malachi, God issues a test to His faithfulness to provide.
Give your Tithe and Test Him
The word tithe here means “a tenth part”. Or one-tenth, literally 10%.

A tithe is always 10%, because that’s what the word means, it can’t be 3% or 7%, it literally means 10.

What does this number 10 represent?
Throughout scripture 10 represents testing!

We actually see it over and over again in many different ways!

So answer these questions out loud:

How many plagues were there in Egypt? 10

How many commandments are there? 10

How many times did God test Israel in the wilderness? 10

You might not know the answer to this, but I think you’re getting the pattern.

How many times were Jacob’s wages changed? 10

How many days was Daniel tested? 10

How many virgins were tested in Matthew 25? 10

How many days of testing are mentioned in Revelation? 10

How many disciples were there? 12

Kidding: I’m just testing you make sure you’re paying attention.

But seriously, every one of these scenarios reflect testing for the people involved!

And in Malachi 3:10-11 we see it again. The tithe, tenth part, and testing.

God is testing our hearts!

Only area where God says that you can test Him in return.

He actually says, "Test me!”

It’s like He’s daring us to test… He wants to prove Himself to you in this area.

This passage in Malachi is so simple.

If I tithe, I'm blessed.

If I don't, I’m am not.

3

APPLICATION

The Law:
People still argue about law versus grace.
“Tithing was part of the law and I'm not under the law, so I don't tithe!”

Quick Question: Is it ok for me to lie to you, steal from you, covet your possessions?

What if I reach into your pocket, steal your wallet and walk away, then claim… "hey I'm not under the law so this is ok."

If it was wrong under the law, is it now right?

If it was right under the law, is it now wrong?

Satan uses what God meant to reveal our need for grace and Jesus' actual saving grace to become chaos as we argue over which system we choose.

This is not an issue to debate – Jesus gives is the answer:

Christ Fulfills the Law

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

Matthew 5:17 (NKJV)

The law, whether it's about tithing or not murdering, remains applicable.

This is encouragement to receive the words from OT and understand that they are still as relevant today as when first spoke.

God's Word does not change.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

Every part of the Word is vital to our well-being! Including the parts about tithing.

[18] Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High.

[19] And he blessed him and said:

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
[20] And blessed be God Most High,
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

And he gave him a tithe of all.

Genesis 14:18-20 (NKJV)

Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe of all he had gained after he defeated enemy kings

Abraham's grandson, Jacob carried on this principle of presenting 10% to God:

[20] Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, [21] so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. [22] And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

Genesis 28:20-22 (NKJV)

4

APPLICATION

Moses Continues the Tithe:

Offerings of Firstfruits and Tithes

26 "And it shall be, when you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you *as* an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, [2] that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put *it* in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide.

Deuteronomy 26:1-2 (NKJV)

NOTE: to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide.

That place is the temple, and in modern day, the place where God's name abides is in the local church.

It is not the government, your credit card company or your favorite hobby.

Your First & Best must be brought to God before anything else

Why?

Moses is instructing the people on how to live in the Promised Land.

You must learn to live in that same land of promise through stewarding all that God has provided.

Tithing is not just Old Testament either! Let’s see what Jesus says in…

[23] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Matthew 23:23 (NKJV)

People opposed to tithing distort this to say Jesus is telling them that tithes are not neccessary and that we should show mercy and faith.

Do not miss the message because of a distorted perspective on tithing.

JESUS himself said to tithe. If the Son of God says to tithes, I’m going to tithe.

How about you?

5

APPLICATION

Can v. Cannot

Two most common testimonies about tithing:

1. People who faithfully tithe say, “God has blessed me and is still blessing me!”

2. People who do not tithe say, “I can't afford to tithe!”

The truth is you cannot afford to NOT tithe.

The only supernatural release of God’s abundant blessing is through giving back to God what He first gave to you.

It is grounded in Scripture before the Law was established; it was the Law and it remains the Law.

Tithing is the act of faith that breaks the bonds against your finances.

Some people roll their eyes in rejection.

But Malachi says, God invites you to test Him. Then do it.

Consider your situation:

Do you faithfully tithe?

Have you been blessed by God through your tithing?

Do you choose not to faithfully tithe?

Are your finances healthy, consistent, multiplying?

EQUIPPING MOMENT: If I said turn right and you’ll get to the stadium, everyone who turned right would get where? The stadium.

Guess where the people who turned left went?

I don’t know, but they are not at the stadium.

You might end up at a McDonald’s play land and decide you’re at the stadium, but you are not no matter what you tell yourself and others.

We must follow directions – To get out of a poverty mindset and into God’s abundant provisions, you must follow His directions.

The choice is yours – Choose wisely.

The most important thing about stewardship - Gives us a chance to deepen our relationship with God.

Remember, God owns everything - You are entrusted as a manager of His resources. Every good owner and manager have a solid relationship.

Every decision is an opportunity to talk to God and build relationship.

Every time we get paid and have a personal increase in our finances, we have the chance to pass the test and grow deeper in faith and relationship with God.

Blessed finances start with obedience to God.

6 CLOSING

APPLICATION

Prayer for Financial Blessings

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with a humble heart, seeking Your divine intervention in our respective financial situations. You are the source of all blessings, and we trust in Your provision and care for us. Your Word says that You will supply all our needs according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

Lord, we ask for Your wisdom to manage our finances wisely and for Your guidance in making decisions that honor You. Help us to be a good steward of the resources You