



# Getting Real About Giving

Malachi 3:6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7 Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

## Giving...

1. Giving is an opportunity to declare that everything I have \_\_\_\_\_ . vs.10 "Bring the whole tithe.."
2. Giving is an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ . vs.10 "my house"
3. Giving is an opportunity to see God's blessings \_\_\_\_\_ . vs. 10 "so much blessing"

## Stealing...

1. Robs \_\_\_\_\_ of the recognition and honor He deserves. vs.9 "you are robbing me"
2. Robs \_\_\_\_\_ of the resources He desires. vs. 10 "that there may be food in my house"
3. Robs \_\_\_\_\_ of the blessings that could be theirs. vs. 10 "you will not have room for it"

## Growing...

1. Giving is a \_\_\_\_\_ – do I need faith \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Giving is a \_\_\_\_\_ – do I need courage to \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Giving is the overflow of one's \_\_\_\_\_ – do I need help \_\_\_\_\_?

Leviticus 27:30 "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

Deuteronomy 8:17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. 19 If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.

# Small Group Discussion Questions

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## Getting Real About Giving Malachi 3:6-12

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### Getting Started:

- 1) Who is the first person that the Bible records as making an offering to God? ?

### Going Deeper:

- 2) Read Malachi 3:6-7 and Numbers 23:19. Why is it good news that God does not change?
- 3) In Malachi 3:8, God equates the giving practices of His people with robbery. How does reading the following verses help in understanding God's point of view? Exodus 13:2, Leviticus 27:26, Leviticus 27:30
- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. How does this passage relate to Old Testament teaching about giving? Do you think this verse would retain its meaning if it were transplanted into the Old Testament??
- 5) What giving principles are being taught by Paul with the practical advice he gives in 1Corinthians 16:1-2?
- 6) What is the difference between stewardship and ownership? Read 1Chronicles 29:14. How might embracing an attitude of stewardship change your fundamental views toward giving?
- 7) In Malachi 3:9, God points out the reason circumstances are difficult for the people. In the following three verses, what other circumstance is awaiting their obedience?
- 8) What would you say to someone who wants to give but is afraid they wouldn't have enough for themselves?
- 9) What would you say to someone who wants to give but his/her spouse doesn't support them?
- 10) What would you say to someone who wants to give but doesn't think the amount of their giving would make much of a difference?

### Putting It Into Practice:

- 11) What step of faith do you need God's help with in your life right now? Pray about that in your group.