

# THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

## “Storehouse Tithing”

### I. Study Resources

#### BIBLICAL FOUNDATION – Malachi 3:7-11

##### *Textual Passage – Contemporary English Version*

<sup>7</sup> . . . even though you have ignored and disobeyed my laws ever since the time of your ancestors. But if you return to me, I will return to you.

<sup>8</sup> You people are robbing me, your God. And, here you are, asking, “How are we robbing you?”

You are robbing me of the offerings and of the ten percent that belongs to me. <sup>9</sup> that’s why your whole nation is under a curse. <sup>10</sup> I challenge you to put me to the test. Bring the entire ten percent into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house. Then I will open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessing after blessing.

##### *Helpful Translations*

“Bring all the tithes—the whole tenth of your income—into the storehouse, . . .”

*The Amplified Bible*

“ . . . an overflowing blessing”

*The Revised Standard Version*

“ . . . and then see if I don’t open the floodgates of heaven for you and pour out blessing for you in abundance”

*The Jerusalem Bible*

“ . . . and pour out blessings for you until you shall say, It is enough”

*The Holy Bible From Ancient Eastern Manuscripts*  
George M. Lamsa

“Try it! Let me prove it to you!”

*The Living Bible: Paraphrased*, Kenneth Taylor

#### EXEGETICAL INSIGHTS

##### *“Storehouse”*

The storehouse of Malachi’s day—Old Testament times—was a large, three story building adjoining the rear and two sides of the temple. This storehouse was for the purpose of storing all the tithes and

offerings, which were brought to the Lord. No such Temple with its adjoining storehouse exists today!

From a Radio Message entitled *Storehouse Tithing*  
Charles E. Fuller

#### CHARACTER ANALYSIS AND HISTORICAL SETTING

Malachi is one of the six undated prophets. This book was written during the years after the return of Israel from the Exile in Babylon. Malachi shows that the Temple worship, with its sacrifices, had been fully restored. However, Malachi also shows that the ceremonial formalism and hypocrisy which came to a peak in the days of our Lord’s earthly ministry, four hundred years after Malachi’s day, were even then actively at work. For example, consider Malachi 1:7, 8 where we read how the people offered the poorest animals for sacrifices, those that were blind, lame, and sick, while they kept the best for themselves. Such practices were directly contrary to God’s command found in Leviticus 22:20-22.

*Storehouse Tithing*, Charles E. Fuller

#### KEY OBSERVATIONS

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse” (3:10). This one statement—a definite command—speaks of the giver, the gift, the procedure and the place. It become an obligation, a privilege, a blessing, an investment, a ministry and a necessity.

“Ye” refers to God’s own people. He has no instruction for the unbelieving world, and no promise. To them He has but one word, a blessed word, a word of invitation: “Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth” (Isa. 45:22). His own, however, must be taught a deep sense of responsibility, an attitude of generosity, and the art of sharing.

What were they commanded to bring? Tithes. This was obligatory. One-tenth of their income belonged to the Lord. The offerings were optional, albeit the Lord desired them. The tithe was a responsibility; the offerings, a privilege. The former was said to be a measure of their honesty; the latter an evidence of

their love. And let it be remembered that the Lord specifically takes note of the gift which reflects the presence or lack of heart sincerity and devotion. The widow who gave her mite was divinely commended. The one who sows sparingly reaps sparingly. Perhaps the chief reason why the Lord loves a cheerful giver is that it affords Him opportunity to give liberally in return.

The tithe made for proportionate giving—a fair and reasonable plan for all alike—while the offering permitted a personal test of appreciation with a latitude to accommodate any prompted liberality on the part of the offerer. It provided an incentive to lay up treasures increasingly where rust and moth do not corrupt and where thieves cannot break through and steal.

The storehouse could scarcely be termed a treasury. It was “in the field” (I Chron. 27:25). It was a storage for the fruit of the land which was given to the Lord. It was equally the distributing center. Because of its purpose, it was sacred both to the Lord and to the people. With what pleasure must the sincere have brought their gifts to this place. And with what meticulous care it must have been attended there. So, whether in a storehouse for the fruit of the ground or a treasury for gold and silver, God tests the love of His people in giving as well as living.

*Malachi or Will A Man Rob God?*, p. 65-67  
S. Franklin Logsdon

**II. Application Resources**

**POSSIBLE TITLES**

Storehouse Tithing – “Is The Church The Storehouse?”

“God Robbers!”

“Man’s Tithes And God’s Windows”

“How To Increase Your Income”

**POSSIBLE OUTLINES**

- I. A Command – “Bring ye all the tithes”  
“Prove me now”
- II. A Promise – “I will open”  
“ . . . and pour you out a blessing”
- III. An Abundance – “there shall not be  
room enough to receive it”

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- I. An obligation
- II. A privilege
- III. A blessing
- IV. An investment
- V. A ministry
- VI. A necessity.

S. Franklin Logsdon, p. 65

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**How To Increase Your Income**

- I. By Acknowledging the Fallacy of Materialism (Malachi 3:7, 8)
- II. By Accepting the Challenge of Our Lord (Malachi 3:9-10a)
- III. By Admitting the Value of This Proposal (Malachi 3:10b-12)

*The Contemporary Pulpit*, Volume III, 6B

**ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL**

There is a story about a church in the South with a small but vocal “Amen Corner.” Especially vocal was Deacon Jones, who led the “Amen Corner.” So one day when Preacher Brown began his sermon with the words, “Let the church walk,” Deacon Jones shouted in response, “Amen! Let the church walk!” Preacher Brown continued, “Let the church run!” and Deacon Jones followed along with “Amen! Let the church run!” Preacher Brown got even more wound up and exclaimed, “Let the church fly!” And Deacon Brown almost jumped out of his pew in crying “Amen!” Let the church fly!” And then Preacher Brown looked at them earnestly and said, “And if the church is gonna fly, it will take money!” Whereupon Deacon Jones replied, “Let the church walk!”

*What Does God Require?*, Henry Rust  
“*The Mighty Window*” by Richard L. Smith, p. 31

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The following story is told concerning the life of John D. Rockefeller, the powerful oil baron. He started out as the son of a peddler, was a millionaire by the age of 23, and the richest man in the world by the age of 50. When he was 53, he became sick with a mysterious illness even the best doctors couldn’t diagnose. His hair and eyelashes fell out. The only thing he could eat was milk and crackers. He never smiled. He couldn’t sleep. His body shrank until he

began to look like a mummy. And, at the beginning of his 54<sup>th</sup> year, his doctors told him he had less than a year to live. In the middle of another sleepless night, Jesus' words came to Rockefeller with a power and urgency he had never experienced: "Do not store up yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Five hours later, Rockefeller climbed out of bed with a new direction for his life. He was now determined, over whatever time might remain, to work as hard at giving his money away as he'd previously worked at *accumulating* it.

Some of us are alive today because of the development of penicillin and cures for malaria, diphtheria, and TB that Rockefeller research grants made possible. Actually, it is estimated that 500 million people in the world owe their very lives to this man's generosity.

But the most remarkable cure of all was Rockefeller's own. Within six months of Rockefeller's decision to devote his life to sharing money instead of hoarding it, he reported to his amazed physicians that he'd never felt better in his entire life. All his symptoms had disappeared. John D. Rockefeller went on to live another 44 years, and finally died in 1939 at the age of 98, having given away over \$500 million dollars for the good of others.

*Church Worship*, July 2001, p. 3  
David Inglis

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A poor man named Tidman, who lived near Bristol, England, was much concerned because he was unable to give much money to the Lord. He put a small amount in the church collection plate each week, but he longed to do more, especially for the cause of missions. As he prayed about the matter, he remembered that in his small flock of chickens was one that laid an egg almost every day. Much as he needed every cent he could get to maintain his small farm, he decided he would dedicate that choice hen to the Lord. Over a long period of time she laid many eggs and had several little chicks. As they matured, their egg production added to the proceeds, and all the earnings were used exclusively for missions. On December 31, 1869, the mother hen died. Because she had made it possible for the farmer to grow in the

"grace of giving," he reached a unique decision. He would bury her in a prominent place to remind him constantly of his obligation to the Lord. He didn't want to forget the lesson he had learned about increasing his contributions, nor to overlook the blessings it had brought him. So he placed a small stone marker on the spot, with these words as an inscription:

Here lies Tidman's missionary hen,  
Her contributions—four pounds ten!  
Although she's dead, the work goes on,  
For she has left seven daughters and a son  
To continue the task that she's begun.

Many may smile at this unusual memorial, but take to heart the good example of the faithful giving of Mr. Tidman and the missionary hen!

### III. Worship Resources

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said, "Much is required from the person to whom much is given" (Luke 12:48).

Response: We are those who have been given much love, much hope, much peace in Christ Jesus.

Leader: What have you done with what you have been given? Where in the world have you invested this legacy from the Lord?

Response: As we praise and worship God the giver, we will examine ourselves.

*Lectern Resource*, October/November/December 1999, p. 19

#### RESPONSIVE READING

##### Psalm 85:1, 2, 8-13

Leader: "All goodness comes from you, O God."

Response: I can hear what the Savior God says, promising peace to us who obey, ready to rescue those who give honor, and speaking salvation throughout our land.

Leader: "All goodness comes from you, O  
God."

Response: Love and faithfulness will meet,  
righteousness and peace embrace;  
loyalty springs up from humanity,  
righteousness flows down from above;  
God will give all that is good,  
the land shall yield its fruit;  
justice will cast its shadow ahead,  
and prepare a path for peace.

Leader: "All goodness comes from you, O  
God."

*Lectern Resource*, October/November/December 1999, p/ 30

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

I Timothy 6:13-18

### CONGREGATIONAL SONGS AND HYMNS

"I would be true, for there are those who trust me"  
491/548

"He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater"  
597/592

"If so poor a soul as I" 492/315

#### **The Earth Thou Gavest, Lord Is Thine**

Tune: Behold the Saviour (SATB 75)

The earth thou gavest, Lord is thine;  
We stand on hallowed ground.  
In field and forest, mart and mine  
Thy handiwork is found.  
O Lord of earth and sky and sea,  
In this our dwelling-place,  
We pledge to thee fidelity  
Empowered by thy grace.

We would not claim what is not ours,  
Nor thy fair land despoil;  
We hold in trust the golden hours  
Thou givest us for toil.  
Our talents, too, of mind or hand  
Are ours by thy bequest;  
To serve mankind in every land  
We strive at thy behest.

Beyond the turmoil of our day  
Whose tasks are scarce begun,  
We long to hear the Master say,  
"Well done, thou faithful one!"  
O save us, Lord, from selfish greed  
From pride of stubborn will,  
As stewards of both in word and deed,  
Our calling to fulfill.

We would not yield to false acclaim  
Or bow in craven fear;  
Above the proudest earthly name  
thy Kingdom's goal shine clear.  
O Lord of earth and sky and sea,  
In this our dwelling-place  
We pledge to thee fidelity,  
Empowered by thy grace.

Georgia Harkness  
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### SPECIAL MUSIC

"Trust Try And Prove Me"  
Lida Shivers Leech, Genevox Music Group