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Groups Sermon Study Questions

The Prosperity Test

June 24, 2018

Message Summary

Money is a driving force in our culture. Many Americans are driven to acquire as much money as they are able. But how does God use money in our lives. This week, we examined The Prosperity Test and learned how God uses money to test our hearts, beginning with whether or not we'll put Him first through tithing (bringing Him the first 10% of our income). Every time we receive a paycheck, we take The Prosperity Test.

Consider This

Why do you think so many Americans are obsessed with money?

What role does money play in your life?

How would you define tithing? Do you believe it is important for a Christian to tithe?

Study Questions

Read Genesis 4:3–5; Exodus 23:19; Leviticus 27:30; Psalm 50:10–11; Proverbs 3:9–10

1. When was the practice of giving back to God established?

- 2. Why do you think that it is significant that this came before the Old Testament law on tithing was given to the Israelites?
- 3. How would you explain the principle of giving back to God out of your "firstfruits"?
- 4. Why is this concept of giving out of your "firstfruits" important?
- 5. What does it look like for us to honor the LORD with our wealth?
- 6. Do you believe that everything belongs to God? How does this impact your willingness to give?
- 7. Have you seen God's provision in the past when you've been faithful to honor God out of your "firstfruits"?
- 8. The tithe isn't giving—it's returning to God what's already His. Anything over and above the tithe is giving (an offering).
- 9. How is our attitude towards tithing affected when we understand this?

Moving Forward

As you review your own Prosperity Test, consider the questions below.

1. What do the following verses tell us about how we can pass the Prosperity Test?

Malachi 3:8-11 Exodus 13:1-2 Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24 Mark 12:41-44 2 Corinthians 9:7 Timothy 6:6-10

The principle of the first fruits (tithing) is not about coming under condemnation—it points to how to live in victory. If you've struggled with this issue, be encouraged. The way to get victory in any area is to rely on God's help, and the way to get His help in your finances is to put Him first.

- 2. What does Malachi 3:10 promise to those who will step out in faith to obey God with their tithe?
- 3. What are practical strategies to begin tithing when you feel that you can't "afford" it? What will you do this week?