

BREAKING BROKE PT 16

Point 7 - TITHING REVEALS WHO YOU TRUST

Tithing is not a math issue. It is a trust issue.

- It exposes fear.
- It confronts control.
- It challenges scarcity.

If God can trust you with the first portion, He can trust you with multiplication.

- Throughout Scripture, multiplication follows consecration.
- **The widow of Zarephath gave first to Elijah before feeding herself**, and the flour did not run out.
- **The boy gave his loaves to Jesus**, and thousands were fed.

The first given in faith unlocks increase. The tithe is not about losing ten percent. It is about inviting God into the remaining ninety.

It declares:

- You are my source.
- You are my security.

- You are my provider.

Trust is the currency of the Kingdom. And trust is demonstrated first.

Point 8 - **THE ULTIMATE FIRST: CHRIST**

- Romans calls Jesus the Firstborn among many brethren.
- Colossians calls Him the Firstborn of all creation.

God gave His First so the rest could be redeemed.

This is the deepest theology of the first. Before we ever gave to God, He gave to us.

- He did not wait to see if humanity would improve. He gave His First when we were still sinners.
- The cross is the ultimate firstfruits offering.
- And every tithe echoes that greater redemption.

If God did not withhold His Firstborn Son, it should not shock us that He asks for the first portion of our increase.

The first belongs to Him because everything originates with Him.

CONCLUSION: RETURN TO THE FIRST

Malachi begins with this declaration: “I am the Lord, I do not change.”

- The covenant pattern has not changed.
- In the garden, the first tree established honor.
- In Egypt, the firstborn established redemption.
- At Jericho, the first city established trust.
- Under Moses, the first tenth established order.
- In Christ, the Firstborn established eternal salvation.

This is not about pressure. It is about PRIORITY. Not about legalism, but LORDSHIP. Not about obligation, but ORDER.

- When the first is honored, the rest is redeemed.
- When the first is consecrated, the rest is covered.
- When the first is surrendered, the rest is multiplied.

The question is not whether tithing is Old Testament or New. The question is simple:

BREAKING BROKE: **THE LAW OF KINGDOM
GENEROSITY**

2 Corinthians 9:6–11 (NKJV) - “But this I say: He who sows **SPARINGLY** will also reap **SPARINGLY**, and he who sows **BOUNTIFULLY** will also reap **BOUNTIFULLY**. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a **CHEERFUL GIVER**. And God is able to make **ALL** grace abound toward you, that you, **ALWAYS** having **ALL** sufficiency in **ALL** things, may have an abundance for every good work... Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food,

supply and **MULTIPLY THE SEED YOU HAVE SOWN AND INCREASE** the fruits of your righteousness.”

GOD’S ECONOMY NEVER COLLAPSES

Throughout this entire series we have been talking about **breaking broke**. But let me remind you of something important.

- God never promised His people a life that was free from economic pressure.
- What He promised was something far greater.

He promised that His people could live inside **AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT NEVER FAILS.**

- Kingdom economics does not fluctuate with Wall Street.
- It does not collapse when markets crash.
- It does not panic when inflation rises.

Because the economy of heaven operates on **righteous laws.**

- Seed and harvest.
- Giving and receiving.
- Honor and blessing.

The problem many believers face is not that God's promises have failed, but we have failed to work the promises.

Paul lays out one of those laws in our anchor text. "He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully."

- This is not motivational language.
- This is not religious hype.

This is a spiritual law embedded into the fabric of God's creation.

- **If you plant little, you harvest little.**
- **If you plant abundantly, you harvest abundantly.**

The Kingdom of God functions through seed. Everything in the Kingdom multiplies through sowing. And that means generosity is not just an act of kindness.

Generosity is participation in the economic system of God.

I want to show you why giving is so powerful and why God promises blessing to those who live generous lives.

Not because God needs your money. But because **God wants His people to live under His blessing.**

Look at these stories of THE POWER OF A GENEROUS LIFE

One of the most extraordinary examples in Christian history is **George Müller. (Put up Pic)**

- Müller cared for thousands of orphans in nineteenth century England. He refused to ask people for money. Instead he prayed, gave and trusted God.
- There were mornings when hundreds of children sat at tables with empty plates. And yet again and again, God provided.
- On one famous occasion, the children sat waiting with no food in the house. Müller prayed, thanking God for the meal that had not yet arrived.
- Moments later, a baker knocked at the door. He said God had awakened him in the night and told him to bake bread for the orphans.
- Shortly after that, a milk cart broke down outside the orphanage and the driver offered the milk before it spoiled.

Thousands of children were fed for decades through the radical generosity of one man who trusted God.

History tells similar stories beyond the church.

Henry Ford (Put up pic), founder of Ford Motor Company, was known to be a consistent tither early in his career.

- His pastor once advised him to continue giving generously as his business expanded.

Ford later reflected that if he had not learned to tithe when he made his first dollars, he would have never tithed when he made his first million.

Another example is **W.K. Kellogg (Put up Pic)**, founder of Kellogg's cereal company.

- Kellogg was known to give away enormous portions of his wealth.
- **At one point he reversed the tithe and lived on ten percent while giving away ninety percent.**
- Hospitals, schools, and humanitarian projects were funded through his generosity.

These men discovered something powerful.

Generosity does not diminish your life - It expands it.

Transition: But Scripture also warns us about the opposite path.

THE CURSE OF A CLOSED HAND

- Malachi 3 does not just speak about blessing. It speaks about curse. “You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me.”
- That language sounds severe to modern ears, but it reveals a serious truth.

THE PERIL OF GREED

- Malachi 3 warns that withholding the tithe placed Israel under a curse.

The Hebrew word **'arar** means **RESTRAINED** or **DIMINISHED**.

When generosity stops, the flow of blessing stops. A closed hand cannot receive.

GREED IS NOT SIMPLY A MORAL FAILURE. IT IS A SPIRITUAL BLOCKAGE.

- The Kingdom economy flows through open hands.

Which is why Jesus said, **“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**

The word “blessed” is *makarios*, meaning **DEEPLY FULFILLED, FLOURISHING, FAVORED**.

- Giving produces a deeper blessing than receiving because giving aligns the heart with God's nature.

When people refuse generosity, they close the door to God's provision.

- Not because God is vindictive, but because they have stepped outside the order of the Kingdom.
- A closed hand cannot receive.

When a life becomes dominated by taking instead of giving, it begins to resemble the nature of the enemy.

- Lucifer fell because he wanted what was not his. He grasped. He seized. He took.
- And that same spirit of grasping still infects human hearts today. Greed. Hoarding. Fearful accumulation.

God is not trying to get money from you. God is trying to get blessing to you. But the pathway of that blessing flows through generosity. Breaking broke is not simply about escaping lack. It is about becoming a person God can trust with resources. When the people of God learn to live inside the economic system of heaven, the promise of Scripture becomes reality.

The economy of God never fails.

And when the world sees a people who live with open hands, they will see something unmistakable. They will see the reflection of their Father. A God who gives.

But the Kingdom confronts that greed spirit with a radical alternative.

A GENEROUS LIFE.

Transition: Because generosity does something profound in the soul.

THE PRINCIPLE OF GENEROSITY

Scripture begins our understanding of giving with a foundational truth. **God Himself is generous.**

James 1:17 - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights.”

- Creation began as an act of generosity.
- Salvation came through generosity.
- John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”
- The entire gospel story begins with a gift.

Which leads to a powerful theological observation:

Giving is not something God asks us to do. Giving is something God Himself is.

- God gives because generosity is part of His nature.
- This is why Scripture consistently links generosity with godliness.

Jesus said in Luke 6:36 - “Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

- In the same way, generosity reflects the character of God.

And here is a statement that may sound simple, but it carries enormous spiritual weight.

You are never more like God than when you give. And you are never more like the enemy than when you take.

- Lucifer fell because he grasped for what was not his.

The Kingdom rises through giving. Once we understand the nature of generosity, Scripture then clarifies the promise of giving.

THE PROMISE OF GENEROSITY

“God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

Notice the language:

- All grace.
- All sufficiency.
- All things.
- Abundance.

The Greek word for sufficiency is **autarkeia**, meaning **COMPLETE PROVISION and CONTENTMENT SUPPLIED BY GOD.**

- Paul is describing a life where God continually supplies what is needed.
- The promise attached to generosity is not merely wealth. **It is divine provision.**

Proverbs 11:25 - “The liberal soul shall be made fat.”

- The Hebrew phrase literally means **the soul of blessing will flourish.**
- Those who live openhanded lives become conduits of God’s provision. Why?

- Because God knows He can trust them. And heaven funds what advances the Kingdom.

GENEROSITY TRANSFORMS THE HEART

Paul writes in **2 Corinthians 9:7**: “**God loves a CHEERFUL giver.**”

- **The Greek word for cheerful is the root of our word hilarious. It carries the sense of joyful freedom.**
- Giving is not supposed to be miserable. It is supposed to be liberating.

Because generosity breaks something inside us. It breaks fear. It breaks greed. It breaks the illusion that we are the source. Every time you give, you declare something powerful.

- You declare that God is your provider.
- You declare that heaven is your supply line.
- You declare that your life will not be governed by scarcity.

This is why the generous soul prospers. Not merely because of financial return, but because generosity aligns the heart with the nature of God.

Transition: And when a church begins to live this way, something remarkable happens.

The early church understood this. They shared resources. They cared for widows. They supported ministry. And the result was extraordinary.

- Needs were met.
- Communities were transformed.
- The gospel spread.

Breaking broke is not merely about individuals prospering. It is about a people becoming conduits of generosity.

When God can trust a church with resources, that church becomes a river of blessing to its region.

- Food for the hungry.
- Hope for the hurting.
- Resources for the work of God.

The Kingdom advances when generosity flows. **We live THE LIFE THAT LOOKS LIKE GOD**

Let me leave you with this truth.

God did not save us merely to escape poverty. He saved us to reflect His nature. And His nature is generosity.

- The Father gave His Son.
- The Son gave His life.
- The Spirit gives power.

Heaven is a culture of giving.

So if we are going to break broke, we must break the spirit of taking. We must become people whose lives say:

- God can trust me with resources.
- God can trust me with blessing.
- God can trust me with increase.

Because whatever He places in my hands will not stop with me. It will flow through me. And when that happens, the promise of Scripture becomes real. “The liberal soul shall be made fat.”

Not merely prosperous in finances. But rich in life. Rich in purpose. Rich in blessing. And the world will look at a people like that and see something unmistakable: **They will see the nature of God reflected in His people - A people who give.**

The Domino Effect!

- Pizza Box
- 1200 web pages of information on the web
- His name is **Tom Monaghan** (put up pic).
- One of two children. Has a brother named James. Father died on Christmas Eve when Tom was 4 years old.
- His mother could only find a job making \$27.00 a week; so, she took Tom and James to a Catholic orphanage and promised to come back and get them; but she never did. She would visit from time to time.
- Their lives became a series of foster homes, disappointments, rejection, and abuse. They spent 6 years in one orphanage where they met a Polish nun.

A Nun was very influential in his life. She asked them to write down three things they would like to do.

Tom wrote:

- Be a priest
- Be an architect like Frank Lloyd Wright
- Be a shortstop for the Detroit Tigers.

The nun told him to do these things he would have to remember: (put on one screen)

- You Can Do Anything You Want to Do With Your Life
- You Can Rise Above Your Hurts
- Make God Your Partner
- Don't Ever Give Up!
- Be A Giver!

What happened? He and his brother James began his pizza empire with one store in Ypsilanti, MI in 1965 and secure the business deal with \$75. He got a \$500 loan, and a 15-minute lesson in pizza making.

- 8 months later James Monaghan trades his half of the business to Tom for a used Volkswagen Beetle with 160,000 miles that they used for pizza deliveries.
- There was no business and little money. This is when he made God his partner and was impressed to focus on pizza delivery. He started giving and he never stopped.

1969 – 3 stores

1978 – 200th store

1983 – 1100 stores

1985 – Fastest growing pizza chain in the world

1989 – 5000 stores (Boycotted by Nat'l Organization of Women)

2006 – 8,190 stores in 54 countries

2008 – 10,000 stores

\$170 million advertising budget

12,000 pizzas were delivered to Ground Zero in NYC for the workers at 9/11

\$375,000 was given to the families of 9/11 victims

1998 Tom sold Domino's to Bain Capital (presidential candidate Mitt Romney was one of Bain Capital's founding partners) for...

\$1 billion to focus on religious and philanthropic work. In 8 months, he gave over \$450 million to ministries around the world.

“It’s God’s money and I want to use it for the highest purpose to get as many people to heaven as possible.”

This little boy who wanted to play for the Detroit Tigers didn’t do to bad - Tom bought the Detroit Tigers in 1983 for \$53 million and the next year they won the World Series.