



Lessons That Last PT. II | “Will a Man Rob God?”

Tithing and Faithful Giving

R.T. Kendall | 06.28.26

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help group members apply what they learn.

Icebreaker

Share one lesson about money or generosity that you learned growing up. How has it shaped your adult life?

Sermon Summary

This message explores the biblical principle of tithing—giving 10% of our income to God through the local church. The sermon traces tithing from Abraham (pre-law), through Moses (under the law), to the New Testament (grace), showing it's always been about grateful response to God, not legalistic obligation. The key message: tithing isn't about getting to heaven, but about honoring God, supporting His work, and experiencing His blessing.

Key Scripture

Malachi 3:8-10

"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. 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 there will not be room enough to store it."

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- ✓ **Tithing predates the Mosaic Law** and continues as a principle of grateful giving under grace
 - ✓ **The tithe (10%) belongs to God**—He puts us on our honor to return what is His
 - ✓ **Tithing is the fairest system**—everyone gives the same percentage regardless of income
 - ✓ **God is pleased equally** by the widow's 10% as by the millionaire's 10%
 - ✓ **The local church is the primary place** for the tithe; offerings beyond that can go elsewhere
 - ✓ **We can't out-give God**—He promises blessings we cannot contain when we honor Him
 - ✓ **Tithing doesn't save us**—only faith in Jesus Christ does that
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. **Before this sermon, what was your understanding of tithing?** Has this message challenged or confirmed what you believed?
2. **Pastor Kendall mentioned that tithing began with Abraham (pre-law) out of gratitude, not obligation.** How does understanding this origin change your perspective on giving?

3. **Why do you think Jesus specifically endorsed tithing when He criticized the Pharisees on almost everything else?** (Matthew 23)

Personal Reflection

4. **Pastor Kendall gave five reasons to tithe:**
 - Jesus endorsed it
 - Paul assumed it
 - What it does for God's work on earth
 - What it does for God in heaven (it pleases Him)
 - What it does for you personally

Which of these reasons resonates most with you? Which challenges you most?

5. **Pastor Kendall said, "What gives you more satisfaction—when God pleases you or when you please Him?"** How would you honestly answer that question?
6. **Have you ever experienced God's faithfulness in your finances, especially when it seemed difficult to give?** Share your story with the group.

Addressing Obstacles

7. **What are the most common reasons people give for not tithing?** Which of these feel most legitimate to you, and how does Scripture address them?
8. **Pastor Kendall mentioned that wealthy people sometimes give less percentage-wise than those with lower incomes.** Why do you think this happens? What does this reveal about our hearts?
9. **"Tithing will not get you to heaven."** Why is it important to understand this? What wrong motivations might people have for giving?

Application & Action

10. **Pastor Kendall emphasized giving the tithe to the local church ("the storehouse") and offerings beyond that to other ministries.** What do you think about this principle? How does it apply today?

11. **Malachi 3:10 is the only place in Scripture where God says "test me."** What do you think it means to "test God" in giving? Is anyone willing to share if they're sensing God's invitation to step out in faith?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following action steps:

For Non-Tithers:

- Calculate what 10% of your income would be
- Pray about taking the "6-week test" mentioned in the sermon
- Meet with a financial counselor or mature Christian to discuss getting started

For Tithers:

- Reflect on whether you give "cheerfully" or grudgingly
- Consider if there are areas where you've been robbing God beyond the tithe
- Pray about going beyond the tithe with additional offerings

For Everyone:

- Examine your heart: What does your giving reveal about what you truly treasure?
 - Share your testimony of God's faithfulness with someone this week
 - If you've never made a clear commitment to Christ, settle that issue first
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Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Closing Reflections

Silent Reflection (2-3 minutes): Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart regarding:

- Your trust in God's provision
- Your willingness to honor Him with your finances
- Any areas where you've been robbing God
- Whether pleasing God is truly your highest priority

Closing Prayer: Have someone pray for the group, asking God to:

- Give courage to those stepping out in faith to tithe
- Provide wisdom for managing finances biblically
- Transform hearts from greed to generosity
- Help the group treasure eternal things over earthly possessions

Leader's Notes

- **Be sensitive:** Money is a deeply personal topic. Create a safe, non-judgmental space
- **Avoid legalism:** Emphasize grace and relationship with God, not rules
- **Share your story:** If appropriate, briefly share your own journey with tithing
- **Respect privacy:** Don't pressure anyone to share specific financial details
- **Follow up:** Check in with those who expressed interest in starting to tithe
- **Remember:** The goal is transformed hearts, not just changed behavior

"There was a man, some called him mad; the more he gave, the more he had." - John Bunyan