

THE BLESSED LIFE part 5

“A Curious heart”

“Being Blessed means having supernatural power working for you”

6 WEEK GENEROSITY JOURNEY!

WEEK 1: AN OPEN HEART! Inviting God into the conversation!

-Money stressed most people out! God wants to help!

-Cast your cares.....take my yoke.

-Owner verses Renter (Steward) FREEDOM

WEEK 2: A WILLING HEART: GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

-Be willing and obedient

-One gift, 2 responses: Judas & Mary

-Revealed the heart! (Selfish or grateful)

WEEK 3: AN UNDERSTANDING HEART: “THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST”

-Honor God FIRST and THEN he will increase the rest!

-Seek FIRST the Kingdom.....THEN....all these things as well!

-It takes more faith to give to God FIRST and TRUST for enough.

WEEK 4: A CONTENT HEART: FIGHTING GREED AND WANTING MORE

-The Spirit of Mammon (Aramaic word for Riches)

-It was named after a Syrian God that represented wealth and riches

-Jesus was talking about putting your trust in money & riches

TODAY: A CURIOUS HEART: UNDERSTANDING THE TEST!

WEEK 6: A TRUSTING HEART: MIRACLE HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE IT AWAY

A CURIOUS HEART: UNDERSTANDING THE TEST!

WE ARE ALL GIVEN A TEST!

-AND IT IS A 2 WAY TEST! (The only time WE can test GOD

Malachi 3:6-12 — “For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” ⁷ Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the Lord of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’ ⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.” ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And test Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.” ¹¹ “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts; ¹² “And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,” Says the Lord of hosts.

SO MUCH TO UNPACK HERE!!

Malachi 3:6-12 “For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. ⁷ Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will

return to you,” Says the Lord of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.⁹ You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me,

PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD! THEY KNEW THE RULES!

Verse 6: God does not change

Verse 7: Gone away from my Ordinances: Principal of ordinary behavior

Verse 7: Return to me! Their hearts had strayed (Treasure & Heart)

Verse 8: You have robbed me

Verse 9: The consequence: You are cursed

ORDINANCE: Principal of ordinary behavior

THE TITHE IS ALL THROUGH SCRIPTURE! (Predates the Law)

Genesis 14:18-20—Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.—²⁰ And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

-This was 500 years before the law. Abraham was the first!

Genesis 28:20-22 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the Lord^[f] will be my God²² and^[g] this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

-400 years before the Law of Moses!

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.”

-The TITHE Belongs to God.....so we RETURN it to him (not give)

Forefathers: Abraham.....Isaac.....Jacob! (Name changed to Israel)

-Israel had 12 sons that became the 12 tribes of Israel!

-THEN...God gave them the land he had promised to Abraham

There were 12 sons, but that is not how the land was given

-12 Brothers: land split by 10 brothers, Joseph's boys each got land

THAT LEFT THE LEVITES

Numbers 18:21 “I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting.

-The Levites did the work of the Lord (Jesus talked about priests & Levites)

NOW: Some say Tithing is Old Testament.....not the New Covenant!

-for most it is just an excuse to give less! (Free from the law)

Acts 4:32-35 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the

sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

SO YOU CAN CHOOSE!!!!

1) TITHING IS GOD'S PLAN TO FUND WORSHIP & MINISTRY

2) TITHING IS A TEST!

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And test Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing. That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

-Our test: Bring ALL the tithes to the storehouse!

-We can shift lenses on our finances!

-Paying taxes: try to look POOR on paper!

-Getting a loan: try to look RICH on paper!

IT IS A HEART THING.....Just be honest!

HUGE: SO.....Tithing tests our hearts.

-Tithe: Hebrew word, 10th part

INTERESTING NOTE: Why a percentage?.....Because it is fair to everyone!

-The Same exact test for everyone

-God set up His plan to fund Ministry and Worship here on Earth

-That plan helps KEEP our Hearts in a good place!

AND.....IT'S THE ONLY PLACE GOD SAYS "TEST ME"

HUGE: We Believe that 90% blessed will go further than 100% on our own!

*IT BUILDS OUR FAITH!!

First: It is God's Plan

Second: It is a test to build our faith

3) TITHING MAKES OUR MONEY STRETCH AND GO FURTHER!

*Malachi 3:10-12 - "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And test Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing, That there will not be room enough to receive it."*¹¹*"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts;*¹²*"And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts.*

Verse 10: I will open the windows of Heaven and pour our Blessing!

-Such a blessing there will not be room enough to receive it!

Verse 11: I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes!

Verse 12: All nations will call you blessed!

GOD'S DESIGN WAS BRILLIANT:

-Everyone gives 10% to the work of the Lord.

-He will take the 90% and stretch it further than the 100%

-FREE MONEY! People will see that you are blessed!

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO OUR CRITICAL MINDS!

Proverbs 3:5-10 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. ⁸ This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. ⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the FIRST FRUITS of all your CROPS; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to OVERFLOWING, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

HUGE: GOD WANTS TO PARTNER WITH YOU!

-God the creator of all the universe.....will Rebuke the devourer!

That is a pretty good business partner to have!

-Farmers spend money on weed and pest control and irrigation!

-without it...their profits go down the drain!

*Imagine a company came along and said.....if you give me 10% of the crop.....I will protect it from weeds and pests!

-you would probably come out ahead even though it costs you something!

Malachi 3:11-12 “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts; ¹² “And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,” Says the Lord of hosts.

WE ARE TALKING COMPLETE MIND CHANGE HERE!!

-Financial overhaul!

It simply says it is yours...not mine and I trust you.

GOD WANTS TO BLESS US!!!! BUT WE NEED TO DO OUR PART!

-I love as a parent doing MATCHING with my kids! (do their part)

HARD TO FOLLOW THROUGH WHEN THEY DON'T!!

Many people are MISSING OUT ON THE BLESSING!

3 ATTITUDES ABOUT MONEY IN THIS ROOM:

**First - It is mine, and I share with God when I want to
(I give a bit to do my part)**

**Second - I share my money with God because I have to
(I give out of discipline/guilt)**

**Third - It's all God's, and He shares with me!
(The most freeing place to live).**

-takes the pressure off of our shoulders!

HONEST:

I WANT YOU ALL TO EXPERIENCE THE BLESSING OF TITHING

-My prayer for this series is that we all keep moving forward!

AND THERE IS A HUGE NEED: HUGE STEP OF FAITH!

-\$8.4 million dollar project! Daycare will finance about \$4.9 million

-THE GAP IS \$3.5 million! HUGE FAITH PIECE!

-TIME, TALENT & TREASURE!

-\$1 million in labor and professional discounts

-\$2.5 million in cash & Pledges

*Typical would be a 3 year CAPITOL CAMPAIGN (raise Double your budget)

*BANK HAS GIVEN US A \$2.5 Million Dollar BRIDGE LOAN!

-They want it secured by \$2.8 MILLION in Pledges!

-THAT IS WHY THESE CARDS MATTER! (collect in June)

CELEBRATE June 29 & 30

CHALLENGE AS WE ALL TAKE GROUND!

Emerging: Give sometimes when you come.....KB giving.

Consistent: Set up auto-plan

Intentional: Idea: 1% increase each month (10 month tithing plan)

Tither: Gives 10% of income

Sacrificial: Tither and Over & Above (KB & Building)

Legacy: Make a long lasting investment through your company or assets.

PRAYER TEAMS & COMMUNION!