

## Talk it Over: Atypical, Week 6

**March 26-27, 2022**

**Looking back at the message this weekend, what was the key thought for you?**

### Key Scripture

Malachi 3:10

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house. And 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 you won’t have enough room to store it.”

Other Scriptures:

Proverbs 11:25, Psalm 112:5, Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:8-9, Genesis 14:17-20, Genesis 28:22, Leviticus 27:30, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7.

### Key Thoughts

1. If you want what typical people have, do what typical people do.
2. If you want what few people have, do what few people do.’

The Tithe...

1. A Dedicated Portion - bring the whole tithe - Malachi 3:10
2. A Designated Place - into the storehouse
3. A Divine Purpose - so that there may be food in my house
4. A Divine Promise - Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven.

**Big Idea:** Let each one give, thoughtfully and with purpose...not begrudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:9).

### Start Talking

(Find a conversation starter for your group)

Ice Breaker: Why is tithing so much more than just donating to charity? To whom does the tithe belong? Hint it isn’t you or me. See Leviticus 27:30. How would you explain a tithe to a third grader?

### Start Thinking

(Ask questions to get your group thinking)

Troy said that one atypical action of a Christian is to tithe and give generously to God and His work through the Church. Tithing helps the giver and the world. What does tithing help us learn about God? How does tithing connect us with God’s mission in this world?

Troy reminded us that a tithe means 10%. What was the tithe in the Old Testament? Read Malachi 3:8-10 as a group. What is God’s challenge regarding a tithe? Why is it important to tithe today even though we aren’t under the Mosaic/OT law?

Go around the group and discuss why most people don’t give to the Church or its mission? What do you think this reveals about our level of trust in God? Does anyone have a testimony about how tithing has helped his or her relationship with God? If so, please share with the group.

### Start Praying

The Apostle Paul outlined the process that we should use when it comes to

tithing and giving. In 2 Corinthians 9:9, Paul said that we should give thoughtfully and with purpose. We should give cheerfully. And the key to this is prayer. Don't just throw a little money in the offering plate, put your whole self in God's hands. Take about 10 minutes out of your group time tonight for each person to pray privately. Pray through these key points:

- a) Honestly consider and admit to the Lord what you have been doing over the past year when it comes to tithing. Tell Him anything or thought standing in the way of you giving a tithe.
- b) If you aren't sure why you do what you do, take a few minutes and ask the Holy Spirit to show you the inner motivations and thoughts going on in your heart and mind.
- c) If you have been negligent in giving to God's house and ministry, ask forgiveness and specifically name any fears or concerns weighing on you regarding finances. Ask the Lord to move in those areas as you step out in faith.
- d) Then, ask God to reveal what next steps you should take. Don't just think about it. Write it down and develop a timeline to put this new journey with God and money in action.
- e) If you are married, you need to discuss what the Lord is doing in your heart on this matter. Start brainstorming the next steps together. If you are single, tell someone who can hold you accountable and encourage you.

## **Start Doing**

If you trust God as your provider and your King, there is nothing like putting your money where your mouth is. Setting

up a plan to give to your local church and Kingdom work can be tough. It probably will require sacrifice, and you may not think you can afford to do it. But the Lord may surprise you in how giving to others can unlock a new chapter in your walk with God. Giving is a great way to see if you own your stuff or if it owns you. Some wonder, "Can we trust God? Will He truly provide?" Malachi 3:10 calls a follower of God to test Him and see if He does not bless those who honor Him with their money. It isn't that God wants your money. He wants your heart. He wants you to be free from the unhealthy hold that money can have on some people.

SCC has a 90-day tithe challenge. Consider taking the challenge and develop a plan to start or boost your giving to God's work. Check it out here for more information...

<https://steamboat.church/give/>.