

THANK YOU

Gratitude Results in Generosity - Malachi 3:6-12 Message Reflection Guide

When my son Xavier was six years old, a friend brought her toddler to visit and Xavier wanted to give him a few toys. I delighted in our little giver's generosity, until he offered a stuffed animal my husband had searched several stores in different cities to find. Recognizing the high-demand toy, my friend tried to politely decline. Still, Xavier placed his gift into her son's hands and said, "My daddy gives me lots of toys to share."

Though I'd like to say Xavier learned his confident giving from me, I've often withheld my resources from God and others. But when I remember that my heavenly Father gives me everything I have and need, it's easier to share.

In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to trust Him by giving a portion of all He had supplied to the Levite priests, who would in turn help others in need. When the people refused, the prophet Malachi said they were robbing the Lord (Malachi 3:8-9). But if they gave willingly, showing they trusted the Lord's promised provision and protection (v. 10-11), others would recognize them as God's blessed people (v. 12).

Whether we're managing our finances, our schedules, or the gifts God entrusted to us, giving can be an act of worship. Giving freely and fearlessly can show our confidence in the care of our loving Father—the ultimate generous Giver. - Xochitl Dixon

CONVERSATION STARTER

Share a time when someone was generous with you, how did that make you feel?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

Read Malachi 3:6-12

On Sunday Pastor Jason said "Tithing is a spiritual discipline in which we express gratitude to a generous God and partner with Him in Kingdom work." Tithing is a response to the generosity of God, how has God been generous to us as His children?

Tithing forms your heart. What does your spending say about "where your treasure is your heart will be also"? How has pursuing earthly treasures impacted your faith?

Tithing protects your heart. In the passage God has some harsh words for those who do not tithe. Why is tithing a heart issue? What scarcity mindset do you struggle with most? (next page) Why do you think that is?

Tithing aligns your heart. Tithing implies giving our first and best to God, What other resources besides finances are you giving back to God? How has giving been a blessing in your life? How do you feel when money is tight?

CHALLENGE

Tithing is a heart issue. What value do you believe tithing has in your discipleship? What step can you take towards growing in the spiritual discipline of tithing?

Scarcity Mindset	Generosity Mindset
I give, I lose	I give, the Kingdom wins
I can't trust God to provide	I grow in trust that God will provide
What will it cost?	What will be the impact?
Worry and despair	Faith and joy
I expect the worst	I expect God to meet my needs
Withholding = bondage	Letting go = freedom
I have very little	God has blessed me with so much