

“Embrace F.O.M.O.”

Malachi 3:6-12

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All Scripture quoted from ESV unless otherwise noted

What often prevents us from being thankful boils down to discontentment or fear. When you fail to tithe fully, you are missing out on God’s fullest blessing. The book of Malachi was written in about the 5th century BC during a time when the Jews were under Persian occupation; a time of heavy taxes, political dissatisfaction, personal disillusionment, & religious cynicism; a time in which people may have felt that God had failed them. But many of the Jews had failed to give their full tithe to God, and as a result, were missing out on God’s fullest blessing. The word “Tithe” literally means “Tenth” – 1/10, or 10% – no more, no less. You can give above and beyond 10%, and that’s what Scripture calls ‘offerings.’ We are all called – every one of us – to give 10% of our income to God.

Some objections often given for not tithing

- “Tithing is an OT thing”
 - Matthew 5:17 – Jesus never intended to overrule the OT
 - Genesis 14:17-24 – The need to tithe is not part of the OT law
- “Jesus never taught about tithing”
 - Actually, He did – Matthew 6:2, Luke 11:42
- “I can’t afford it”
 - If you’re not generous with a little bit, you’re not going to be generous with a lot
 - You can’t afford **not** to
- “I give my time, so I don’t have to give my tithe”
 - This is the trap the Pharisees often fell into; choosing which laws they wanted to obey and which ones they didn’t want to obey, but partial obedience is still disobedience
- “I just don’t want to”
- That’s God’s money in your bank account

In Malachi 3, we are given permission to test God in this specific way (v.10)

- Your part in that test is to bring in the full tithe (10%) from here on out; starting from this moment on.

- God is not looking for repayment – He’s looking for restoration (Luke 15:11-32)
- God’s part in this test is far more complicated
 - Provide (v.10) – enough to meet all your needs
 - Protect (v.11a) – shielding that which you’ve already got
 - Bless your work (v.11b) – increasing the fruits of your work

Tithing is not buying God’s favor – it is aligning with His will, and doing what you should have been doing all along; living sacrificially, giving generously, and keeping your hands out of God’s wallet!

- God will get you further with 90% than you could ever go with 100% on your own
- Robbing God is a serious accusation – are you okay with that?
 - George Mueller – *“God judges what we give by what we keep.”*

True and proper thanksgiving always focuses on how God has provided, protected, and blessed

- If you’ve been giving God less than 10%, then God says you’re a thief – ouch!
- If you’re ready to experience God’s fullest blessing, then it’s time to commit to tithing
 - God will prove faithful to you, as you are faithful to give as He commands us all to give

Embrace FOMO – *“Faith [that] Overcomes My Objections.”*

DIG IN!

Here are some farm-fresh questions that will help you to personalize and apply this morning’s message.

1. ***What was most surprising, unexpected, or helpful from today’s passage/message? Why?***
2. ***What are some other objections one might give as a reason for withholding tithes? Are these objections valid? How do you know?***
3. ***What principles of stewardship are mentioned in, or described by) today’s passage?***
4. ***40 years from now, what will people miss from these days? Why?***

5. **Why does God give us something just so that we will give some of it back to Him again?**
6. **To an agricultural culture, a “devourer” might be destroyed crops or a poor harvest, resulting in financial hardship. What might a modern-day “devourer” be?**
7. **Describe the difference between tithes and offerings. Which is described in 2 Cor. 9:7? How do you know?**
8. ***What have you learned through your personal time of Bible reading this week?***