

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Treasure Principle” Malachi 3:6-12 June 10/11

Getting Started

Radical Generosity is not a destination, but a direction of living life with a divine intentionality of investment. Therefore, a journey of joyous giving begins with a systematic approach to establishing consistent reproducible habits worth imitating.

Proverbs 13:22: “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children.” Leave a legacy not just by leaving behind an inheritance, but a heritage.

“I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that, I still possess”
- Martin Luther

Do you have any systematic habits of generosity? What are they?
Do you give faithfully to your church or a Christian ministry?
Do you ‘pay it forward’ by blessing others with financial surprises like a free meal?
Do you serve or volunteer your time with your church or a Christian ministry?

Going Deeper

“The Treasure Principle” of passing on a heritage of generosity, not just an inheritance of generous things, begins with fully embracing God saying to you:

I. I CAN BE TRUSTED: **Read** Malachi 3:6-7

- Name of God (6): “The LORD”: Jehovah-Faithful to Fulfill
- Nature of God (6): “Do Not Change”: Covenant Terminology

Research shows that the number one reason people don’t choose to be generous is because they fear that if they give money away, they

won't have enough left for themselves, (for their daily living or their retirement.) Based on Malachi 3:6-7, what do you think God's response to them would be?

II. I CAN BE TESTED: **Read** Malachi 3:7-10

- Consequences of Ignorance (7): "But you say, 'How shall we return?'"
- Criticism of Integrity (8-9): "Will man rob God?"
- Challenge of Investment (10): "Bring the full tithe"

God realizes that we are weak and frail, and yet rather than be frustrated with us, He challenges us to trust Him and to test Him. To do anything less than completely trusting Him is to rob Him, to rob Him of glory and honor because we doubt His integrity.

The Old Testament requirement was that the Israelites brought the first 10% of their harvest to the temple, and beyond this, there were many other offerings they could make. Since we no longer live under Law, but under Grace, can we demonstrate our unwavering trust in God by being generous in our giving? For some, giving 10% might feel like a huge test of faith. For others, giving 10% would be easy. As a rule of thumb, our giving should be just out of our comfort zone, so we are demonstrating full trust in God! Will you trust Him and begin to give generously, or to increase your giving so you are demonstrating greater faith in God?

(Leaders, this is an intensely personal matter, so you may offer to be available to pray and counsel your group members if they want to talk privately about it)

III. I CAN BE TRIUMPHANT: **Read** Malachi 3:11-12

- Posture of Defense (11): "I will rebuke the devourer for you"
- Place of Delight (12): "then all the nations will call you blessed"

Rather than living in fear of not having enough, by choosing to be a generous giver, you will discover an excitement and joy in life that comes from knowing you can't out give God! People will watch your life and see the joy you have, and ask you, 'Why are you so happy?' Then you get to tell them, 'I can't out give God! The more generous I am, the more God is glorified, and people's lives are touched and changed!' What changes to your lifestyle, your definition of contentment, and your measure of significance might you need to make so you can live triumphantly?

Take Away:

I affirm God's full ownership of me and everything entrusted to me.

I choose to set aside the first fruits of my time, treasure, and talents.

I recognize that I cannot take earthy treasures to heaven; therefore I will seek to lay up heavenly treasures.

I will ask God to teach me to give sacrificially to His purposes.

For Further Study:

The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving: by Randy Alcorn (This resource is available in the CBC bookstore)

If you had to summarize in one idea what God is impressing on you from this message, what would it be?

Group Prayer Requests

Pray for our CBC students as they are at camp this week and next week, that God will speak to their hearts and draw many to salvation and significant decisions.