

Dropping a Dime on Generosity

Pastor Mark Alt

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most transformational steps of faith occurs when we discover the power of generosity. Generosity is a hallmark of followers of Jesus. God has always been about revealing Himself to the world and a key part of God's plan is to reveal Himself to the world through His people. Today we will take a fresh look at that so we can each see the role we play in that plan.

REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

Read out loud Malachi 3:7-10 (p. 1052 Christian Basics Bible). A tithe literally means "a tenth" of your income. Offerings were all the other gifts or sacrifices that honored God. These were given to provide for God's work by providing for the priests, the upkeep of the Temple and to help the community.

1. Why would the people of God to whom Malachi was writing have stopped tithes and offerings? What is at the root? What were they missing out on because of this? There is a shift from the Old Testament to the New Testament from an emphasis on tithings and offerings to generosity. Pastor Mark mentioned that "tithing is just the training wheels to teach us generosity." In your own words, explain how that works, if you can.

2. To help you understand this even more, read Luke 21:1-4 (p. 1189). From Jesus' perspective, generosity is not about the size of the gift but the size of the gift in proportion to what you have – a percentage. How does that change your view of generosity as you look at others and yourself?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (p. 1331). This is a picture of what it looks like when followers of Jesus trust God with their finances. It is what it looks like to live in God's Kingdom economy. What words or phrases jump out to you in this passage? How does God's invitation in Malachi 3:10-12 parallel this passage? What can Christ-followers expect to see when they take a step of faith and make generosity a lifestyle?

If you're a follower of Christ, it is important that you take a step of faith in this area of giving and generosity. Start with a tithe, but don't stop there. Be generous in every way.

MEMORY VERSE

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

2 Corinthians 8:10

SUGGESTED RESOURCE

"The Treasure Principle," book by Randy Alcorn