



Connection Group Participant Guide

November 7, 2021

Malachi 3:8-11

Teaching Point 1. Will man rob God? – God is the Creator of all things. He made us and He made this world we live in. Everything actually belongs to Him. But He puts some of it into our hands so that we can be stewards over it, using it for His kingdom. A steward is a caretaker who is entrusted with his master’s possessions. His job is to take care of these possessions, use them for his master’s business, and protect the interest of the master. We should understand that whatever God has put into our hands, we are to use for Him and for His glory. Very strong language is used as God accuses the people of actually robbing Him! This is how seriously He takes the issue of giving. Refusing to tithe is the same as robbery.

Application: We should be supporting God’s work with our time, our energy, our talents, our spiritual gifts, and our money. Do you know that money is one of the most talked about topics in the whole Bible? It is talked about more than hell, heaven, marriage, parenting, employment, relationships, and a host of other issues. Why? A wrong attitude toward money clouds our whole outlook toward life. Our use of money often shows where our heart is and what our priorities are. God knows that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10).

Teaching Point 2. I will... open for you the windows of heaven – God promised to bless the Jewish nation if it would obey God in this area. Here we see God’s divine power. Nothing is too difficult with Him. Our logic makes us think if we give God \$10, we have lost \$10. God is telling them that He is greater than that. He can give them much more than the \$10 they “lost.” God is able and willing to bless His people more than they can possibly imagine.

Application: In the New Testament, we are commanded to be generous and joyful givers, not limiting our gifts to a predetermined percentage of our income. Trust God. He is not limited by the size of your bank account. If you have faith in God and allow that faith to direct how you use your money, you will be amazed. Basically, in this verse God says, “give Me a chance!” He wants us to give Him a chance to show His power and His care for us. If we stingily hang on to our money and trust in ourselves, we are also robbing God of a chance to bless us like He wants to.

Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.