

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Pastor Brad Davis

The Ripple Effect



- The **Ripple Effect** – a situation in which, like ripples **expanding** across a body of water after an object is dropped in, this effect can be followed **outwards** incrementally
 - We are going to **explore** the ripple effect of our **giving**
 - What **test**?

Malachi 3:6-9

⁶ “I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’ ⁸ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

- **I** have not changed but **you** have
- You are **robbing** me
- You are under a **curse** because you are robbing me

Malachi 3:10-12

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

- Tithing is a **test**
 - Every time you get your **paycheck**, it is another test

- **90%** with the blessing of God goes farther than **100%** without His blessing
- It’s **Old Testament**, it’s the law, we are under **grace** (Matthew 5:17)

- Tithing is **biblical**
 - If **Jesus** said we should tithe in the **New Testament**, would you do it?

Matthew 23:23

²³ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

- Tithing is a **blessing**
 - God’s promise is that He will **throw open** the flood gates of **heaven** over our lives

2 Chronicles 31:4-10

⁴ He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and Levites so they could devote themselves to the Law of the LORD. ⁵ As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything. ⁶ The people of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the LORD their God, and they piled them in heaps. ⁷ They began doing this in the third month and finished in the seventh month. ⁸ When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the LORD and blessed his people Israel. ⁹ Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps;¹⁰ and Azariah the chief priest, from the family of Zadok, answered, “Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the LORD has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over.”

- I have **never** heard a person who is tithing say, “I can’t **afford** to do this.”

- Tithing is more **personal** to **Jesus** than what you may think.