

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 15

Testing Faith Through Finances

“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!’ ‘How do we rob you?’ you ask. ‘By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions. You are suffering under a curse, yet you- the whole nation- are still robbing me. Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,’ says the Lord of Armies. ‘See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.’”

Malachi 3:8-10 HCS

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

The image of “robbing God” is a violent one. Most of us would never consider robbing another person, let alone God. In fact, most people reading this devotional are probably generous people willing to give to many causes. We might even gloss over this verse and think “I would not rob God!” Yet the verse should still give us cause to pause, and reflect on our giving. First – are we really “tithing?” I believe Scripture is clear that we are to tithe on our earnings. But, I also believe that if we are truly to follow Christ’s example, our giving does not end with the tithe.

The Lord even implores us in the verse to “test Him” in this area. Tithing, let alone giving beyond the tithe, might be a challenge for some – and a good reason to get our personal finances in order and eliminate debt- so that we can give and be obedient when the Lord puts opportunity in front of us. But that does not mean we have to be debt free to start giving.

As a single mom struggling to pay down debt, the Lord commanded me to give

a small amount each month to a local charity. I didn't know how I would do it, but I was more afraid not to be obedient to a clear call by God. So I gave – almost an amount so small I was embarrassed. When I gave, the Lord started working for me in the area of finances. He made things happen, and debt began to melt away as a direct result of one tiny step of obedience. Years later, I am now able to give out of joy and not fear. I have often heard “You cannot out give God” and God has proven to be faithful beyond measure in my own life.

As we enter this sacred season, it's a wonderful time to review our finances, where we give and why. I cannot imagine a more blessed place to give than to a place like Morningstar which truly serves “the least of these.” Even if your amount is small, God multiplies. Remember it's not your money He is really after – it's your heart. Christ gave His entire heart to us. How can we not follow that example beginning with our financial gifts?

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributor

Pam Griner, Brunswick, Georgia, is the Assistant Principal for Instruction at Brunswick High School. During past 25 years at BHS Pam is not a stranger to working with students from all backgrounds, including students from Morningstar. She is passionate about encouraging women in all stages of their faith walk. Pam has led and co-led Financial Peace classes at First Baptist, Brunswick, and watched God transform finances in many people's lives. She also teaches a weekly ladies' class on Sunday mornings at First Baptist.

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