



LESSON FOUR:

THE INESCAPABLE TEST

TO BEGIN

God has promised to bless us when we give back to Him.
How has God been generous to you when you've been generous to others?

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. Read Malachi 3:6-12 and Psalm 24:1. What is the difference between a tithe and an offering? How were the people robbing God? What are the benefits of faithfully giving to God?

2. Kawika quotes Luke 6:38 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Are Jesus and Paul agreeing with each other or contradicting each other? According to these verses, why are cheerfulness and generosity conjoined with the idea of effective giving?

3. Malachi 3:14-15 reveals the Israelites' rationale for their lack of giving. If Malachi wrote these 2 verses to us today, what do you believe he would say? What examples would he give? (In other words: what are some modern excuses for a lack of giving?)

4. What is the "fear of the Lord" according to Malachi 3:16 and Job 28:28; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 22:4? How can we show the Lord that we fear Him?

5. Read Malachi 3:18. Why is serving a distinction between the wicked and the righteous? (HINT: read Mark 9:35 and Acts 20:35)

6. In the video, Kawika said, "Living generously means a spirit of generosity permeates every area of our lives." How have you seen this statement to be true in your life and/or in the lives of others?

7. As followers of Jesus who attend a specific church, it's important for us to invite others, serve, and give financially. As with most things in life, giving requires us to have an intentional plan to support the church we love. If you feel comfortable, respond to one of the following prompts:

- Share about when you first felt convicted to give back to God.
- Briefly share your current plan to financially support the church that you love.
- If you don't have a plan, share about how you can develop a plan.

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND DEEPER STUDY

Read Malachi 3 every day for the next 7 days.

Memorize Luke 6:38.

Pray and ask God how He can increase your faith when it comes to giving.

Read Malachi 3 and follow the prompts below:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What sins and mistakes does the passage warn you to avoid?
- What promises does God make in the passage?
- According to the passage, what attitudes should you have?
- How were you challenged by this passage?
- How might this passage inspire you to set a better example for others?
- Summarize this passage in one sentence.