



Sermon Notes

Return

Pastor Mike Wilson
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This message is available online at sagehillchurch.com for further study.

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 6:24

Leviticus 27:30

Malachi 3:6-12

Matthew 6:24 New International Version (NIV)

24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 6:24d

...”You cannot serve both God and money.”

Leviticus 27:30 New International Version (NIV)

30 “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

Main Idea: Return what is HOLY to the HOLY one.

Define: Tithing is returning the FIRST 10% of our income to God’s Church.

Malachi 3:6-9 New International Version (NIV)

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.

Return what is HOLY to the HOLY one BY...

A. Returning the excuse that God changed his mind

Hebrews 13:8 New International Version (NIV)

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Matthew 23:23 New International Version (NIV)

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.

Matthew 6:21 New International Version (NIV)

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Malachi 3:9-10a New International Version (NIV)

9 You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house...

Return what is HOLY to the HOLY one by ...

B. Returning the control of our finances to the Lord.

Define: Tithing is returning the FIRST 10% of our income to God's Church.

"Tithing teaches me to PUT GOD FIRST"

Deuteronomy 14:23c Living Bible (TLB)

...The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

**"Tithing is bringing God your first and your best so he can bless the rest... "
Dave Ramsey**

Malachi 3:10-12 New International Version (NIV)

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.

**Return what is HOLY to the HOLY one
By ...**

C. RETURNING the TITHE and expect his providential care.

Proverbs 3:9-10 New International Version (NIV)

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Talk About It

Ice Breaker: Share a time when your faith grew as a result of your giving. What did you learn about God from your experience?

What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?

Read and discuss: Matthew 6:24, Leviticus 27:30, Proverbs 3:9-10, and Malachi 3:6-12.

How can tithing be a form of accountability for you?

What are some of the barriers you've faced or are facing that keep you from tithing?

Mike shared some of the ways tithing has enabled God to work through the church in significant ways. What are some of the things God is doing through the church that you are most excited about?

Why do you think Malachi 3 is the only place in the Bible where God asks us to test Him?

What is the connection between our hearts and our giving?

What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?