
Follow the Money

10/1 - 10/6/23

S.O.A.P. :

6 "I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed. 7 Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

"But you ask, 'How can we return when we have never gone away?'

8 "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!

"But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?'

"You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. 9 You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! 11 Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. 12 "Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.
Malachi 3:6-12

Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12

1. How would you define the word "holy"? What are some things that you would consider "Holy" or "set apart"? Have you ever considered your tithe to be holy? Why or why not?
2. During Jesus' temptation, He quotes Deuteronomy 6:16 and tells satan "Do not test the Lord your God". Yet in Malachi 3:10 God tells us to test Him in our obedience in tithing. There is a difference in "testing in doubt" and "testing in faith". How have you seen this to be true in your life?
3. What has control of your heart and mind, God, or money?
4. How do our tithes and offerings affect others? (2 Corinthians 9:12) Can you think of an example?