

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Faithful in Stewardship

SERMON REFERENCE: Malachi 3:7-12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1836

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
 - a) Malachi 3:7-12
 - b) Stewardship is how we obtain money, how we save money, how we invest money, how we spend money, and how we give money.
 - c) God is interested in our stewardship.
 - i) Over and over in the Bible, God talks about our stewardship.
 - (1) God does not need our money.
 - (a) God is God.
 - (b) He owns everything.
 - (2) God is not interested in what we have but in who we are.
 - ii) God wants us, and He wants to bless us.
 - (1) God wants to give to us.
 - iii) Of the 38 parables that Jesus taught, sixteen of them deal with stewardship.
 - iv) About one out of every ten verses in the New Testament deal with this matter of stewardship.
 - (1) In the New Testament, there are about 500 verses that deal with faith.
 - (2) There are about 500 verses in the New Testament that deal with prayer.
 - (3) There are over 2,000 verses in the New Testament that deal with stewardship.
 - v) God is interested in how we acquire and use our money.
 - vi) One of the great tests of our spirituality and how much we love God and how much we believe the Word of God is stewardship.
 - d) Satan is very interested in our stewardship.
 - i) Satan knows that if he can defeat us in this way and keep us in bondage, then he has us right where he wants us.
 - e) God has come to set us free.
 - f) Economists have given eleven ways that we can know whether or not we are in financial bondage:
 - i) Do you charge daily expenditures because you don't have enough money to pay for them?
 - ii) Do you put off paying a bill when it is due?
 - iii) Do you borrow to pay fixed expenses, like taxes and insurance?
 - iv) Does your debt requirement (the money that you owe long term) exceed 20% of your income?
 - v) Are you unaware of how much you owe?
 - vi) Do you have creditors calling you about past due bills?
 - vii) Do you borrow from savings to pay current bills?
 - viii) Are you making new loans to pay off old ones?
 - ix) Do you and your spouse ever argue about money?
 - x) Do you ever think about being dishonest with money?
 - xi) Do you have difficulty bringing your tithe to God's house on God's day?
 - g) Many Americans are in debt today.

- i) Someone has described the average American as a person who drives a bank-financed car over a bond-financed highway with gasoline that he bought with a credit card.
 - ii) We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like.
- h) Many people are in financial bondage.
 - i) Those who are rich may be in financial bondage.
 - (1) The wealthy are in financial bondage when they try to find satisfaction in their money and can't do it.
 - (a) Ecclesiastes 5:10
 - ii) A person is in financial bondage if their money increases their worries.
 - (1) Proverbs 15:6
 - iii) A person is in financial bondage when he is a slave to his money.
 - (1) His chief aim in life is to make money.
 - (2) Proverbs 23:4
 - (a) Someone whose goal in life is to be rich is a miserable person.
 - (i) The Bible never condemns riches.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 8:18
 - (ii) But when you make it your goal to get money, money is going to get you.
 - iv) A person is in financial bondage if they have plenty of money in the bank but no treasure in Heaven.
 - (1) Proverbs 23:5
 - (a) Money talks; it says goodbye.
 - (i) It flies away.
 - (2) Luke 12:16-21
 - i) Not only is God interested in your finances and not only is Satan interested in your finances (because he wants to keep you in bondage), but you are also interested in your finances.
 - i) It takes money and finances to live.
 - ii) It's part of our normal life, and God knows it.
 - j) Today's message will share three principles from the Bible that will help us obtain financial freedom.

2) THERE IS A PERSONAL RETURN TO GOD (MALACHI 3:7)

- a) Malachi 3:7
 - i) "Mine ordinances" in this verse means "my laws."
 - ii) God does not want your money; He wants you.
 - (1) He states in this verse, "Return unto me."
- b) God loves us for ourselves.
 - i) He wants our fellowship.
 - ii) The gift without the giver is bare.
- c) What we do not joyfully, lovingly, and freely give, God neither needs nor wants.

- i) Psalm 50:12
 - d) 2 Corinthians 12:14
 - i) “For I seek not yours but you.”
 - e) Before you give your money, you have to give yourself.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 8:5
 - ii) God is not raising money; God is growing Christians.
 - (1) He wants us to grow in grace and knowledge and to love Him.
 - f) Malachi 3:7-8
 - i) One of the greatest signs that we have returned to God is in our finances, when we stop robbing God.
 - ii) The repentance that does not reach the pocketbook has really not reached the heart.
 - g) Many people are in financial bondage and away from God because they’ve tried to put things first and God second.
 - i) Matthew 6:33
 - ii) No gift or tithing can please God if it does not come from a loving and surrendered heart.
 - iii) The point of return is always the point of departure.
 - (1) For many, the point of departure has been in the matter of stewardship.
 - h) When we fail in stewardship:
 - i) We rob God.
 - ii) We rob the church.
 - iii) We rob missions.
 - iv) We rob the needy.
 - v) We rob ourselves.
 - (1) Tithing is God’s way to enrich us.
 - i) Matthew 22:21
 - i) Do you fear Caesar more than you fear God?
 - ii) Are you more careful with Caesar than you are with God?
 - j) We don’t really give the tithe; we return it.
 - i) It is already the Lord’s.
 - ii) Leviticus 27:30
 - k) Tithing is God’s way to bless.
 - i) There’s always a blessing when we give it.
 - ii) There’s always a curse when we steal it.
 - iii) When a person robs God, he robs himself.
 - iv) God is not seeking our money; He is seeking us.
- 3) THERE IS A FINANCIAL RELEASE (MALACHI 3:10)
- a) Financial freedom begins by tithing.
 - b) The tithe is a definite proportion.
 - i) The word “tithe” literally means “tenth.”
 - (1) Genesis 28:22

- ii) Some say that tithing is legalistic and that it puts us under the Old Testament law.
 - (1) Tithing began long before the Old Testament, Mosaic law.
 - (a) The Bible tells of Abraham giving tithes to Melchizedek.
 - (i) Melchizedek is a type, a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (ii) Abraham came centuries before Moses.
 - (b) Jacob, a descendent of Abraham, made a covenant with God to tithe before the Mosaic law was in existence.
 - (i) Genesis 28:22
- iii) Matthew 23:23
 - (1) There is no competition between tithing and the New Testament.
 - (a) Abraham commenced it.
 - (b) Jacob continued it.
 - (c) Moses commanded it.
 - (d) Jesus commended it.
- iv) Some say that tithing is just a part of the law; that the people were commanded under the Old Testament law to tithe.
 - (1) They were also commanded under the law not to kill.
 - (2) They were commanded under the law not to commit adultery.
 - (a) Since that is Old Testament law, do we think that we're free to kill or to commit adultery?
 - (b) Romans 3:31
- v) We don't tithe because we're under the law.
 - (1) Jesus never revised the law backward or downward.
 - (a) He never told us to do less than they did under the law.
 - (b) Any Christian who would let someone do more under the law than he would do under grace is a disgrace to grace.
 - (i) This doesn't put us in bondage; it gets us out of bondage.
 - (2) We don't make void the law; we establish the law.
- c) With the tithe, there is a designated place.
 - i) Malachi 3:10
 - (1) At the time when this verse was written, there was a place in the temple called the storehouse.
 - (2) The people brought their tithes to the storehouse so that there would be the necessities in order to make the sacrifices.
 - ii) We have a temple today.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 3:17
 - (a) We are the temple of God.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 16:2
 - (a) The word "in store" is the same word that is translated "storehouse" in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament).
 - iii) God's tithe is to be brought to God's house on God's day that God's work will be done in God's way.

- d) With the tithe, there is a definite purpose.
 - i) Malachi 3:10
 - (1) The work of the temple was to be carried out through the tithe.
 - ii) We can give offerings to other good projects, but we are to bring our tithe to our local church.
 - (1) We're to be faithful to God's family.
 - (a) Bring your love gifts to the church, also.
- 4) THERE WILL BE A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL (MALACHI 3:10-12)
 - a) Malachi 3:10-12
 - i) This passage contains a three-fold blessing.
 - b) God will renew our faith.
 - i) Malachi 3:10
 - (1) God says to prove Him, to put Him to the test.
 - ii) Our faith will begin to grow.
 - iii) Luke 16:10-11
 - (1) This passage does not say, "He that is faithful or unjust in the least **could be** unjust in much."
 - (a) It says that he already is.
 - (2) True riches are faith, love, spiritual power, knowledge; it is not money.
 - (a) If God cannot trust us with ten cents out of every dollar, why would He trust us with Holy Spirit power?
 - c) God will rebuke our foes.
 - i) Malachi 3:11
 - (1) We all have foes, and we need God to rebuke them.
 - (2) Our crops will not wither in the field.
 - (a) In this day, the people were farmers.
 - ii) We all have foes:
 - (1) Hospital bills
 - (2) Car repairs
 - (3) Job loss
 - (4) Depression
 - d) God will restore our fruitfulness.
 - i) Malachi 3:11-12
 - (1) This does not mean that we will get rich if we start tithing.
 - (2) When we tithe, we will do more with nine-tenths and God as a partner than we would ever do with ten-tenths by ourselves.
 - ii) Tithing is a key that unlocks the windows of Heaven.
 - iii) Offerings are seed that bring a crop.
 - (1) If we sow bountifully, then we will reap bountifully.
 - iv) We will not out-give God.
- 5) CONCLUSION
 - a) Mark 8:36

- i) Are you saved?
- ii) The most important thing is that you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
- iii) Once you know Him, then you can trust Him in a way that He can open the windows of Heaven and bless you.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16