



“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.”

-Malachi 3:10

A list of foundational scriptures would be incomplete if it did not include something about how we handle money. Malachi 3:10 is the one verse identified on this topic as part of the list of 40 because it clearly addresses the positive results of generosity. The verse that precedes it verifies the bad news – that we are cursed if we choose to live close-fisted in terms of our finances. But verse ten celebrates the great news. God is not only *pleased* with us when we live generously – he wants to shower us with blessings! He invites us to “test him” and to watch him be faithful.

Reflection:

Questions:

1. Everyone has a money story. What is yours? Did you have much or little growing up? What were some key moments in your story with regard to money? How do you tend to handle money now?
2. If you have been here since the beginning of 2016, do you think Mountain Park has been talking too much about money? Or does it seem appropriate in light of our circumstances?
3. What are your thoughts on the popular phrase, “I’d give more if I had more”? Can you relate to that? Is it a reasonable place for some people to be in their discipleship journey?
4. Read Malachi 3:9. What does it mean to be “under a curse”? What are some examples of consequences to not living generously?
5. Read Malachi 3:10. Have you ever seen God “pour out so much blessing” – either in scripture or in your own life? Do you truly believe that is what happens? Or do you think God will not come through?