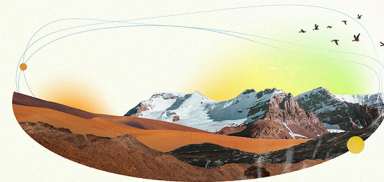


A BLESSED LIFE - TREASURE



PRECEPT

MALACHI 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. 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.

LUKE 6:38

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

PROMISE

Matthew 6:21 says, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" Treasure is linked to the heart. What does our heart long for? Does it treasure the things of this world like money, fame, possessions, security, success, power, and influence? Or is our heart longing for Jesus to be the greatest treasure in our life, both now and for eternity? For us to experience God's abundant blessings, we should place our treasure on God. The Bible has 2,350+ verses regarding giving, still more than the verses about belief, praying, faith, and love combined. Jesus also talked more about money and possession than heaven and hell combined. 16 out of 38 (almost 50%) parables of Jesus are about how to handle money and possessions, and one out of ten verses in the New Testament deals with the subject of money. Does it mean Jesus wants our money? Certainly not, He does not need our money for He is the owner of everything. Psalm 24:1 tells us, "*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.*" Jesus wants to bless us, and that requires obedience to be generous. In Deuteronomy 8:18 it says, "*Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.*" He gave us all that we have and He wants us to be generous. He commands us in Malachi 3:10 to *bring the whole tithe into the storehouse (temple)*. He talked about money because it is the number one competitor of God in our hearts. He wants to protect us from greed and the love of possessions. Malachi 3:8-9 says, "*Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. 'But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' 'In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—because you are robbing me.'*" The Bible tells us of many promises and blessings for those who are generous.

TRUE BLESSED LIFE. "A generous person will be blessed." - Proverbs 22:9

RAISE A BLESSED FAMILY. "They are always gracious and generous. Their children are a blessing." - Psalm 37:26

EXPANDS YOUR INFLUENCE. "He gives generously to those in need. His deeds will never be forgotten. He shall have influence and honour." - Psalm 112:9

ACCOMPLISHED LIFE. "Generous persons will prosper." - Proverbs 11:25

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH. "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse (temple). 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

UPGRADES YOUR JOY. "Happy is a person who is generous." - Psalm 112:5

REPRODUCE GOD'S BLESSINGS. "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way." - 2 Corinthians 9:11

ENTRUST WITH MORE BLESSINGS. "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." - Luke 6:38

We are storing up treasures on earth if the object of our affection is centered on ourselves and what we can accumulate. The way to experience God's blessings is to be generous. If our greatest treasure is Jesus, we will desire to put our time, talent, and treasures on pursuits that glorify Him and we will store up treasures in the kingdom of heaven.

PRACTICE

1. Treasures in Life. Explain how what you treasure reveals what your heart is really pursuing. What are you spending your life pursuing and building - worldly or eternal treasure?

2. Treasures in Heaven. What does it mean to store up for yourself treasures in heaven? What are some ways we can store up treasures in heaven?

PRAYER

I. Church

- May God bless our church with His divine presence, and fill our church with unity & purpose.

II. Leaders

- Pray for wisdom to shepherd God's flock and the courage to stand firm in the face of adversity.

III. Members

- May God strengthen the bonds of fellowship among His people.

IV. Life Groups

- May we be an avenue of support and encouragement through trials.

V. Gifts

- Pray that we may be equipped with the gifts of the Spirit to serve God.

VI. Service

- Pray that we may serve God & His people faithfully and proclaim His truth boldly.

VII. Pastors

- Pray for the personal and spiritual well-being of our pastors and leaders.