



What's In It For Me—Protection (Part 2)

Malachi 3:6-12

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Objective Sentence: Everyone should tithe because of the promised blessings associated with giving.

Introduction; It was Pentecost Sunday and Lighthouse Community Church and Bruce Howell was celebrating Pentecost by preaching on Acts 2:1-4. As the congregation filed into church, the ushers handed each person a bright red carnation to symbolize the festive spirit of the day. The people listened attentively to the reading of the Story of Pentecost from the Book of Acts about how the disciples had heard “what sounded like a rushing mighty wind (the violent roaring of a mighty windstorm); about how the Holy Spirit had appeared “like tongues of fire.” Then came the sermon: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,” the preacher began. “Like the powerful wind from heaven!” shouted a woman sitting in the first pew. Then she threw one of the red carnations toward the altar. The preacher began again: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.” The same woman’s voice rang out again, “Like the tongues of fire, the glorious tongues of fire!” Again, she threw a red carnation toward the altar. The preacher looked straight at her and said, “Now throw your purse and dedicate your money to the Lord on this Pentecost Sunday in remembrance of what Christ did on the cross for us.” To which the woman replied, “Preacher, you just calmed the wind and put out the fire.”

#1. Protection (Malachi 3:10-11 *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.¹¹ “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field).”*

- A. *David McConaughy: In the process of getting, saving, using, of accounting for it—even though it is done quite unconsciously, people’s lives are shaped and molded by money, and depending on how it’s handled—money will prove to be a blessing or a curse in our lives. Either we will become the master of it, or it will become the master of us. God takes money ... and uses it to test the lives of people and as an instrument for molding us into His likeness.***
- 1. **Rebuke the Devourer** (*Mal. 3:10-11* 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 (I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground), and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty).**
- a. *Pastor Dan:*** Every believer is faced with three enemies to our faith in Christ that we must conquer: the world, the flesh and the devil. **Jn.10:10** the thief comes ...
- b. **1 Pet. 5:6-8**** humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; (Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy) because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- c. **Eph. 2:1-3**** You He has made alive ... in which you once walked according to the course of this world ...
- d. **1 Jn. 2:15-18**** Love not the world ... **Lu. 10:19**
- e. **Eph. 6:10-13**** be strong in the Lord ... for we wrestle not
- f. *Jacob’s Vow* **Genesis 28:10-22**** Jacob ... came to a certain place and stayed there all night ... and he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.” ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” ... then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ And he called the name of that place Bethel ... ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, ²¹ so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. ²² And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”
- g. *Pastor Dan:*** Jacob vows to give God 10% and the Lord blesses his life and prospers him. Jacob lies down with his head on a stone symbolizing the hardship

of life on your own. He returns to Israel with abundance which symbolizes the fact that God's way pays.

h. Psalm 1:1-6 Be like a tree planted by rivers of water

2. Walk in Obedience (*Ps. 91:11-16 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. ¹² In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. ¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. ¹⁴ “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. ¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.*)

a. John Bunyun: There was a man they called him mad; the more gave, the more he had.”

b. Pro. 11:24-25 There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; and there is *one* who withholds more than is right, but it *leads* to poverty. ²⁵ The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself

c. Deut. 11:26-28 I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse— ²⁷ the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; ²⁸ the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known

d. Pastor Dan: The world says you must spend money to make money but God says you must give money to be blessed with money.

e. Lu. 6:38 Give and it shall be given to you

f. Pro. 22:4 By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.

g. Luke 12: 6-7; 22-32 Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows ²² Then He said to His disciples, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. ²³ Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁶ If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O *you* of little faith. ²⁹ “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world. ³² “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things^[a] shall be added to you.

Closing: Howard Dayton: Possessions are a primary competitor with Christ for lordship of our lives. Jesus tells us in [Matthew 6:24](#) that we must choose to serve only one of these two masters, “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” It is impossible for us to serve money—even in a small way—and still serve the Lord.

When the Crusades were being fought during the 12th century, the crusaders employed mercenaries to fight on their behalf. Because it was a religious war, the crusaders insisted that the mercenaries be baptized before fighting. As they were being baptized, the mercenaries would hold their swords out of the water to symbolize the one thing in their lives that Jesus Christ did not control. They had the freedom to use the swords in any way they wished. Today many people handle money in a similar fashion. (Story: Johnnie’s doctor bill paid in full)