

# Blessed<sup>2</sup>

## We Can't Outgive God

**We cannot outgive God (Acts 20:32-35).** Though it seems upside down from what is normal in our culture, we find provision and abundance when we embrace *firstfruit generosity* with our finances. From Malachi 3:10, firstfruit generosity means tithing 10% of our personal profit or income to the storehouse (e.g., your local church where you go for spiritual provision and mission). The giving of our finances and personal resources is the only place from Scripture where we can test God. His promise is that if you practice firstfruit generosity He will throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38). We take steps of faith in this area by planning a percentage to give, making generosity a priority, and always prayerfully listening to how God may be leading you to be generous beyond tithing.

### GET THINGS STARTED

Are your finances in general a stress or a joy for you, and why? When it comes to managing money, who has had the biggest influence on you (positively or negatively)? And how comfortable or uncomfortable are you when a church like Beltway Park talks about money matters?

### GO DEEPER

1. From Haggai 1:6, what was the perspective of the Jews in Jerusalem concerning their resources? Why did they have this mindset, and what were they failing to see or understand? What does it look like to have this perspective today?
2. What is the outcome of generosity, according to Luke 6:38? How does this compare to the promise of Proverbs 3:9-10 when we honor God with *firstfruit generosity*? What is the difference between generosity and firstfruit generosity?
3. In Malachi 3:10, why do you think God instructs us to *test* Him when it comes to firstfruit generosity (i.e., the only place in the Bible we are allowed to test God)?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Do you tithe? If so, how have you experienced God's blessing because of your giving? If not, what possibly keeps you from embracing firstfruit generosity?
2. How much do you believe or trust the idea that *we cannot outgive God*?
3. From Pastor David's message, which mindset concerning money best describes you, and why (e.g., the bag mindset of never enough, the basket mindset of having enough, or the barn mindset of abundance)? Do you tend to have more of a lens of lack or a lens of abundance when it comes to money?
4. Isaiah 32:8 says that *generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in the generosity*. How and where might God be calling you to be generous above and beyond tithing? How much is generosity a priority and a part of your financial plan?

### PRACTICE IT NOW

**As a group, take time to intentionally ask God for a heart of firstfruit generosity.** Ask Him to show you what your next steps are in financial generosity, whether that involves tithing (or steps towards tithing) or giving beyond your regular tithe. Ask God to shape your mindset towards money and for the courage to trust Him that He will bless you with abundance when you embrace firstfruit generosity.