



THORNS INTO GLORY

THE ART OF OPENING WINDOWS

Mark 12:41 – 44; Malachi 3:10

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MESSAGE NOTES

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. — Malachi 3:10 (ESV)

And He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And He called His disciples to Him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on. — Mark 12:41 – 44 (ESV)

Giving connects our circumstances to God.

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. — Matthew 23:23 (NIV)

Giving connects our finances to worship.

You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased.” — Revelation 4:11 (NLT)

Giving connects our character to God’s heart.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Matthew 6:21 (ESV)



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read Malachi 3:10 and discuss the promise that God is making to us about living lives of generosity. What does God command us to test Him on?
- How does giving (Tithing) connect our circumstances to God?
- How does tithing connect our finances to worship?
- What are the challenges and what are the blessings in trusting God with the principle of the tithe (giving toward your local church)?
- How does generosity toward God's kingdom connect our character to God's heart?
- Read Mark 12:41 – 44 and share why this woman was the freest, richest and most worship filled person at church that day in God's eyes.