

God's Trust Fund

Stewardship Sermons

By John Kenderdine

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Fairhaven Baptist Church
86 East Oak Hill Road
Chesterton, IN 46304

Website: <http://www.fairhavenbaptistcollege.org/>
Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/fairhaven

Well, I hope that is your prayer this evening. I would rather have Jesus than silver and gold. What a tremendous song that they sung.

Turn in your Bibles to Malachi chapter three. As I announce the text one of my concerns is that people are going to think: Here we go again.

Well, you know what? If that is your attitude tonight as you think about tithing this month—Here we go again—then you need this message.

Malachi chapter three and verse number seven is where we will begin. You know, as you read through the Bible one thing is very, very clear, that God is interested in your money. It is very, very clear that God is interested in your money. Not because he needs it, not because he needs it. God certainly doesn't need our money. But you need it. And so because you need it, you are important to God and so because you are important to God your money is important to God as well.

God is interested in how you secure it. He is interested in how you spend it. He is interested in how you save it. And he is interested in how you share it.

Immediately some people say, "Don't talk about money. Talk about something spiritual."

Well, that kind of statement shows a lack of biblical knowledge and a lack of spiritual insight, for nothing is more spiritual than how you handle your money. Nothing is more spiritual. It is a supreme test of where our heart is.

Malachi chapter three verse number seven the Bible says:

Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me.

But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?

In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.¹

Tonight I want to preach on God's trust fund. Let's look to the Lord in prayer.

Our heavenly Father, I pray, Lord, that tonight as we look at this matter of tithing, Lord, I pray that each one of us, Father, would be pricked in our very heart, Father, that we might understand how important this is. Lord, if we want your blessing then, Father, we will need to be tithers. Father, if we want your blessing then, Lord, we are going to need to respond and do what you tell us to do this coming stewardship banquet. And, Father, I pray that tonight that you would challenge, Lord, those in this room that haven't determined that they are going to give, Lord, that haven't determined, that haven't decided that they are just going to do what is right and tithe the way they should. Lord, I pray that you would challenge them, Lord, speak to them, convict them. And, Lord, I pray that you would help each one of us as we approach the stewardship banquet, Lord, may we do so on our knees? And, Father, may we do so honestly seeking your will in that matter? And, Father, we will thank you and we will praise you for what you will do in Jesus' name. Amen.

Again, nothing is more spiritual than how you handle your money. Look over at Matthew chapter six and verse 21. We are going to kind of jump back and forth here a little bit, but we will be back here again in Malachi in a little bit, but Matthew chapter six verse number 21. There Jesus said this.

Let's back up to verse 19 for continuity's sake.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.²

¹ Malachi 3:7-12.

² Matthew 6:19-21.

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”³

You know, someone once said that a faith that hasn't reached your wallet is a faith that hasn't reached the heart. You see, tonight if your faith... if you don't have the faith to believe that God will supply your needs as you tithe, as you give to him, then your faith hasn't reached your heart yet.

You see, as we give it is a matter of faith. Money is something that we use every day. It is our medium of exchange. It is our very survival depends upon it. And listen. Tonight, how can Jesus Christ, how can you say that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life if you haven't made him Lord of your wallet?

You see, he can't be the Lord of your life if you have not given him your wallet as well. But, again, there are some people who will say, “Don't talk about money. Talk about something else.”

Well, the Bible talks very much about money, 1 Timothy chapter six verse 10. The Bible tells us that, “The love of money is the root of all evil.”⁴ If all the evil in this world is directly or indirectly related to the love of money, then that means that, again, there is nothing more spiritual that we could talk about tonight than money because it is the root of all evil.

Ecclesiastes chapter 10 verse 19 the Bible says, “Money answereth all things.”⁵

You say, “But it is uncomfortable to talk about money. I don't like it when the preacher stands up and he has to speak on our money.”

Well, if that is true then you probably wouldn't have enjoyed Jesus Christ preaching either. You see, Jesus Christ preached on money over and over and over again. When he walked on this earth he gave some 36 parables. Of those 36, 16 of them had to do with our attitude toward money. One out of every 10 verses in the New Testament speaks about our attitude towards money.

You know, there are over 500 verses or about 500 verses that deal with faith. There are about 500 verses that deal with prayer. But there are over 2000 verses that deal with money. I think that money is important. I think that it is important.

Remember the story that Jesus told about the widow's mite. Let's look over there for just a minute, Mark chapter 12 verse 41. Read down to verse 44, through the end of the chapter.

It says: “And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money

³ Matthew 6:21.

⁴ 1 Timothy 6:10.

⁵ Ecclesiastes 10:19.

into the treasury.”⁶ Don’t say that Jesus Christ isn’t interested in how you give. Here it says, again that he:

Sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.⁷

Don’t tell me that Jesus Christ isn’t concerned with your giving tonight. Jesus Christ looks down from heaven and he sees what you are giving. He is very much interested in what you are giving. This whole story of the widow and her two mites has to do with our attitude toward money. So if God is not interested in money, then why would he include this story in his Word?

What about the unjust steward in Luke chapter 16. We won’t turn there. But at the end of the story Jesus told the unjust steward, he said, “If you have not been faithful with your money or with unrighteous mammon who do you expect to commit to you the true riches?”⁸

Again, I ask you: If God is not interested in money, then why would he put that in his Word.

How about the rich young ruler? The rich young ruler, he came to Jesus and he asked what he had to do in order to follow Jesus Christ. And what did Jesus tell him? Jesus said, “Sell all that you have and come and follow me.”⁹

The Bible says that he went away, that rich young ruler went away sorrowful. Why? Because he didn’t own his possessions, but rather they owned him. And, again, that whole story has to do with our attitude toward money.

If God is not interested in money, then why would he include that account in the Word of God?

Clearly, God is interested in your money. But, you know, there is somebody else that is interested in your money as well and that is Satan. You see, it is Satan’s desire for you to remain under a curse, under bondage to money. And the best way that he can do that is to affect your attitude toward money in a negative way.

⁶ Mark 12:41.

⁷ Mark 12:41-44.

⁸ See Luke 16:11.

⁹ See Luke 18:22.

I don't know how many of you have ever used fly paper. I remember in Philadelphia when we worked back there I remember going into some of those old row homes, the run down row homes and as you walk into the hall ways you would see fly paper hanging down, fly tape hanging down from the ceilings. And I always looked at that stuff and I thought, wow, this is really gross, you know, seeing those dead flies hanging on to that.

Well, you know, fly paper has on its surface a sweet, honey like substance, doesn't it, to attract those flies. And the fly goes by that fly paper and he says, "Wow, I want that honey." He says, "I want the honey. I want the honey. I want the honey."

And so he is attracted to that tape, that fly tape. And then as he gets to it he starts saying, "I have got the honey. I have got it. I have got it."

But then the fly tape says, "I have got the fly. I have got the fly."

Listen, your money is the same way. Your money is the same way. Some of you are saying, "I want the money. I want the money. I have got to have the money. I will do whatever it takes to get the money. If I have to overtime and miss church I will work overtime and miss church. I want money. I want money. I want money."

Before long the money has them. The money has them and it won't let them go.

Yes, God is interested in your money. So is Satan.

One more person is interested in your money and that is you. That is you. You see, God is interested in it. Satan is interested in it. And you are interested in it.

Studies have been done in some churches that have revealed some startling statistics. It said that the average giver gives anyway to three percent to seven percent of his income if they give at all. Three percent to seven percent, folks, that is not tithing. That is not tithing.

You know, I am sure that a vast majority in our church are faithful tithers. But I know that in a room this size there are some that are not doing it. There are some that are not doing their part.

You say, "Well, our church, you know, our church averages over 10 percent."

Listen, it is not about the obedience of our church and our church average, but it is about your obedience to God. It is every one of us in this room that are held accountable before God.

You see, tonight, the ones that enjoy the preaching on tithing are the ones that are tithing. But those that aren't tithing you are sitting there and you are gritting your teeth and wishing that this service would be over.

You know what? You could be happy, too. You could rejoice, too, if you would obey God, if you would obey God.

You see the word tithe literally means ten percent.

You say, "What does God want from me?"

He wants your tithe at least, at least. Beyond that it is between you and God what you are going to give. But listen. God says you must give your tithe.

The wisdom of God planned for us a method of giving which is completely fair and equal for everybody. Isn't that something? Ten percent is fair. It is equal for all of us whether you make 10 dollars a week or 1000 a week. It is fair for everybody.

"Ten percent," God says.

We don't give to God, but instead we return to him what is rightfully his. You see, you need to give back to God what is rightfully his. He owns it all anyway. Tonight there are three groups of people that sit in this auditorium.

There are those, the first group, there are those that say, "It is all mine. I work for it. I earned it. I deserve it. It is all mine and if I want to give God a dollar or if I want to give God 20 dollars that is up to me, but I deserve it. It is my money."

I hope you are not in that category because that category is all kinds of problems. That category is not blessed of God at all.

But there is a second group and they say that the tithe belongs to God, but the rest is mine. The tithe belongs to God and I will give it to him because I need to obey him. I will give him the 10 percent and with the rest of it I will do with it what I want.

There is another group that has some problems.

Then there is a third group and they say that it all belongs to God, the tithe and the rest of it. I return to him what he commanded and I entrust him with the rest of it. I will allow God to use the rest of it any way that he wants. My money is not mine. It belongs to God.

Which group are you in tonight? There is a radical difference between the first two groups and the third.

The first says, "I will share with God when I want to."

The second says, "I will share with God because I have to."

Then the third says, "It is all God's and he shares with me."

Is that your attitude tonight? It is all God's. And he shares it with me.

We need to understand, again, that to be blessed of God we need to obey him. Listen. We are not looking for your money. We want God to bless you. And the only way he will bless you is as you are obedient to him. So what is the tithe?

There are three things that I am going to point out tonight about the tithe. First of all it is a definite proportion. The tithe is a definite proportion. Ten percent is a simple calculation. It is as simple as moving a decimal point. If God gives you 100 dollars, you need to give him 10. If he gives you 1000, you need to give him 100.

Since the beginning of time tithing has been God's method. God's people throughout all history have maintained the practice of returning to God the first 10 percent.

Some people say, "Well, that is Old Testament law. We live under the age of grace."

Yeah, how much more should we be giving now? How much beyond the 10 percent? Look at all that God has done for you. How can you not have a heart that wants to do more for him?

But we get so stingy and we get so greedy and we want to take and take and take and not give back to God.

You say, "It is the Old Testament law."

No. God put that in the heart of his people long before the law was ever given. Let's quickly look back through history at this idea of the tithe. All the way back to Genesis chapter 14 before the law was given, Genesis chapter 14 verse number 17. We see that Abraham commenced giving, commenced this idea of tithing.

Genesis 14 verse 17.

And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.¹⁰

So we see that Abraham commenced this idea of tithing. They took all the spoils of the war, all of their increase and they gave it to the priest for the continuation of God's work. That was pre law. Pre law we see this idea of tithing.

¹⁰ Genesis 14:17-20.

But then we also see that Jacob continued it.

Turn over to Genesis chapter 28. Abraham commenced it and then we see that Jacob continued it, Genesis chapter 28 and verse number 22.

Jacob says, “And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”¹¹

Again, it is pre law. So we see that Abraham commenced it, Jacob continued it and now go over to Leviticus chapter 27. We see where the law instituted it. The law, Moses commanded it in Leviticus chapter 27 verse number 30.

It says, “And all the tithes of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’S: it is holy unto the LORD.”¹²

Verse 32. “And concerning the tithes of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.”¹³

So we see that Moses commanded it in the law. And then a few hundred years later in Malachi chapter three—and you can turn back there again—Malachi three verse 10. We see that Malachi confirmed it.

Malachi chapter three verse 10, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”¹⁴

Now, we see that Abraham commenced it. Jacob continued it. Moses commanded it. Malachi confirmed it. And then let’s go to the New Testament because we see that Jesus commended it.

Matthew chapter 23 verse number 23. He said, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”¹⁵

Jesus said, “You are right to have tithed.”

Jesus told the Pharisees, “Hey, look, what you have done in the tithe is right.”

¹¹ Genesis 28:22.

¹² Leviticus 27:30.

¹³ Leviticus 27:32.

¹⁴ Malachi 3:10.

¹⁵ Matthew 23:23.

Why? What did he say? He said, “These ought ye to have done.”¹⁶

They tithed. But, listen. Tithing is just a basic foundation. But there is so much more to add to that. Tithing isn’t an excuse for unholy living.

You see, sometimes we have this idea: Well, as long as I am tithing I can go do whatever I want. You know, I am satisfying God. I am appeasing him because I am putting money into an offering plate. Nothing could be further from the truth.

If you are not living a righteous life you are not pleasing God no matter how much you give in the offering plate. So often people with missionaries, you know, they try to appease their conscience because they are not out soul winning so they give money so that the missionary can go and do it.

No. God is not satisfied with that.

But listen. Jesus commended the Pharisees because they did tithe. But then after that he ripped into them for the other things that they weren’t doing.

So we see that Jesus commended it. Abraham commenced it. Jacob continued it. Moses commanded it. Malachi confirmed it. Jesus commended it. So who am I to cancel it? Who am I to cancel what God initiated?

I have no right to say, “God, I am not going to give to you.”

Who am I to cancel it? It has always been God’s method. He has always used his people to do his work. And, listen. For all those that we have mentioned in tithing, I believe that they saw their tithe as a delight. It was a delight to them to be able to give. They enjoyed giving. They wanted to give. And that is what 2 Corinthians 9:7 tells us. “So let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”¹⁷

God loves when we give cheerfully to him.

Oh, listen. What is your attitude like when that offering plate passes by? What is your attitude like as we approach the stewardship time? Are you thinking in your heart, here we go again? Well, I am going to have to come up with some kind of a figure. I need to increase it.

Listen, if that is your attitude, God is not going to be pleased with you. We need to do so cheerfully because of all that God has done for us.

But, you know, I know that there are some that are sitting in this room that aren’t tithing. You are not giving what you should. You are miserable. Don’t tell me that you are a

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ 2 Corinthians 9:7.

joyful Christian. You can't be joyful and rob from God. You can't be that way. Tithing is our privilege. It is our privilege to be able to give to God's work.

Man, think of the radical Muslims right now. The radical Muslims, they are willing to give everything to their evil cause. They will give everything to what they are doing. But yet we come along and we grumble and we moan because God wants us to give a tenth. God help us. God help us when the evil, wicked terrorists and Muslims, when they can do all that they are doing and we get upset with God when God says, "Give a tenth." We have a problem.

So we see that there is a definite proportion. God says to give a tenth.

But then there is, secondly, a designated place to where we are to bring it. There is a designated place. Again, Malachi chapter three verse 10. God says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse."¹⁸

We are to bring our tithes to the storehouse.

You say, "What is the storehouse?"

We are to give to our local church where we have our membership. You see, the storehouse is a reference in the Old Testament to the temple. And part of the temple was the storehouse. This was an agricultural society. And when they harvested, they brought the first tenth of their wheat or their corn of whatever it was that they harvested and they put it into the storehouse. When their herds gave birth they would tithe of those herds. They would bring it to the storehouse and that was used to feed the priests or used for animal sacrifices or as a medium of exchange to continue the work of God.

The tithe was brought to the place where the people worshipped.

Today that is the New Testament church. That is the New Testament church, our local New Testament Baptist church. But, you know, some think that they have got kind of a side deal going with God. They think that maybe God has told them to put their tithe somewhere else, to put their tithe in some other organization. And they don't want to do what God told them to do. God said, "Bring it to the storehouse, bring it to the church, the church that you are a member of, the church where you worship. That is the place where you are to bring your tithe."

Listen. We come together on God's day. We are with God's people to study God's Word and we ought to bring God's tithe with us, not send it somewhere else.

This is kind of a goofy illustration, but you are to tithe where you are fed. Where are you fed spiritually? You are fed here in your local church. Listen, you wouldn't think of going into a restaurant and eating your meal and then running without paying, would you? You wouldn't think of doing that. But yet there are many that come into a church, our

¹⁸ Malachi 3:10.

church and they do that very thing. They are fed the Word of God. They eat and they run and they never do anything to help with the tithe.

God is going to hold you accountable. You are commanded to bring to the storehouse from which you are fed.

Like I say, this is kind of a goofy illustration, but try going down to McDonald's and ordering yourself a big mac or whatever it is you like. Go to McDonalds. Order that big mac and tell the lady at the cash register, "Listen, today I don't feel led to give you the money. I feel led to send it over to Burger King."

Now, listen. That is ridiculous, right? You couldn't do that. But yet we try to do it in the church all the time.

"Well, I don't feel led to tithe to my local church, but I know this mission agencies in such and such a place. I will send the money to them."

Wait a minute. God said, "Bring it to the storehouse. Bring it right here."

This is a place where you are fed. This is a place where you are a member. Your tithe belongs here, not somewhere else.

I used to get so upset with my grandmother over this kind of thing. She was a good lady, but, boy, she just had this soft heart especially as she got up in years. And I was taking care of her finances and she would come to me and she would say, "I want you to make out a check and send it to World Care or something."

And I would say, "For what?"

"I saw an ad in the newspaper that they need money and so could you write a check?"

And I would argue with her, but she would insist, "Send it to them."

But that wasn't the storehouse.

I remember one time she saw an ad and it was close to Christmas about the homeless and she said, "Will you write a check out and send it down to the homeless shelter so that they can buy a turkey for the homeless people."

Listen. There is nothing wrong with buying a turkey for homeless people. But when you are taking your tithe and moving it somewhere else you have got a problem.

God says, "Bring it to the storehouse."

In Malachi 3:10 he says, "Prove me." God says, "Prove me."

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts,”¹⁹

God says, “Put me to the test.”

But, again, there are some of you, your faith hasn’t made it to your wallet yet so you have no faith in your heart because it has not even gone to the wallet yet.

God says, “Hey, why don’t you try me? Why don’t you just see what I will do for you?”

Listen. If you will be obedient God promises that he will pour out his blessing upon you.

It is an unconditional promise. “Put me to the test,” God says, “See if I won’t bless you.” God says, “I will pass the test.”

Listen, God wants, God wants to pour upon you his blessings. What is he saying? He said, “Prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”²⁰

I want that kind of blessing in my life. I want to see God open up the windows of heaven and pour it out on me, my family, my church. I want to see God’s blessing.

Of course we have all heard people that say, “Well, I can’t afford to tithe.”

That is a ridiculous statement. That is a ridiculous statement.

“I can’t afford to tithe.”

Listen, don’t ever be caught saying that because it reveals that you are tithing last. You are paying all your bills first and then you are coming to your tithe and saying, “Ok, what do I have left now.”

No, no. Proverbs 3:9 God says, “Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.”²¹

On my budget that we keep at home, tithing is at the very top of the list, not at the bottom. We don’t wait and see how much we have got after everything trickles down. No. We give God first and then worry about the other later. God will take care of the other later if I am doing what he tells me to do.

Again, God says to Malachi, “Try me. Try me and see if I won’t open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing bigger than you are even capable of receiving.”

¹⁹ Malachi 3:10.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Proverbs 3:9.

God wants to bless us.

But listen. He goes even a step further. Look at verse number 11. He says, “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.”²²

Of course he is speaking about agriculture here. But God says, “I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,”²³ that pestilence or that flood or that drought or whatever it is that might come in and destroy your crops. He says, “I will rebuke the devourer if you will obey me in this matter of tithing.”

God said, “Put me first and I will rebuke those enemies.”

For most of us we are not farmers, but we do have enemies of our finances. We do have enemies of our finances. They are call hospital bills. They are called car bills, car repairs, tuition, whatever it might be.

We have those enemies of our finances. But listen. God says, “Hey, I will take care of it if you will do what I tell you to do.”

I don't know how God does it, but he always does. He will make those shoes last a little bit longer. He will make that roof that should have been replaced five year ago, go a little bit longer. God will rebuke the devourer on our behalf if we just trust him, trust him.

Some people say, “Well, if God really blesses men, then I will tithe.”

No. You are putting the cart before the horse. You tithe and then let God bless you. Tithe and then God... you will see God's hand of blessing.

There are so many that are in so much debt. And the reason you are in debt is because you haven't grabbed a hold of this idea of tithing. When you get a hold of it, when you really begin to tithe the way God wants you to, you will see God begin to work.

Is it going to be easy? No. It is never easy to get out of debt once you are in it. You need to begin by doing what God says. Begin by tithing and you will see God begin to pour out his blessing.

You can talk about financial freedom all you want. But as a believer you will never be free until you obey this command. No Christian can skip over this step. No, Christian, you must tithe. It is a command of God. And if you don't, the Bible says that there is a curse.

²² Malachi 3:11.

²³ Ibid.

Again, look at verse eight of chapter three.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.²⁴

Do you want God's curse on your life, on your finances? You will have it if you rob from God. You will have it. That is a promise from God.

You see, we like the good promises, don't we? We don't like these kind of promises, but it is a promise. Rob from me and you will be cursed. You wonder why God is not blessing. Maybe you are not giving the way he tells you to.

There is a definite portion that we see as far as the tithe is concerned. There is a designated place. But then, finally, there is a divine purpose. There is a purpose for which God wants us to tithe.

In Africa there is a certain monkey that is considered to be a delicacy to eat. I have never had monkey, but in this one African country it is a delicacy. They have a proven method for capturing these monkeys. They build a little box and they put a hole in it just being enough for the monkey to slip its hand through. And they fill that box up with fruit and with nuts and that monkey slips his hand through there and he grabs a hold of the fruit and the nuts and then when he goes to pull it out he won't let go of the fruit and the nuts that are in his hand. And he will stand there for hours rather than drop the food. He won't drop the food until along comes those natives and they walk up to that monkey and while he is so greedy in holding on to that food they take a club and they whack him over the head and kill him.

There is undoubtedly people here today who are committing financial suicide the same way. You are holding on to that tithe. You are saying, "God it is mine. I don't want to give it up."

You are destroying your life. Let go of it. Let go of it. Let God have it. It is his. It is his.

Tonight, who is in charge? Who is in charge of your money? Is God in charge or are you? Tell God tonight that he is in charge of it. And show him that he is in charge of it by returning your tithe to him. Return it to him. It is his. It is a trust fund. He gave everything for you. Will you give everything for him?

Let's bow our heads and close our eyes tonight I...

²⁴ Malachi 3:8-9.