

ABOVE & BEYOND

DATE: SUNDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2020 | SERIES: ENGAGE - PART: 3

MALACHI 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. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,' says the Lord Almighty.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

NOTE TO LEADERS:

The key objectives this week are to:

1. Help people understand God's view of finances
2. Differentiate between tithing and an offering
3. Encourage people to prayerfully consider contributing to our building project (Above & Beyond)

START TALKING

1. What was your key takeaway from Sunday's meeting?
2. What is the most generous gift you've received? Remember, generosity is a heart response, so it doesn't have to do with the expense of the gift but the generous heart with which it was given.

START THINKING

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What stands out to you most from these verses? What challenges you and inspires you from these verses?
2. Giving is a reminder that we are to be good "managers" of what God has blessed us with. What happens when we start acting like "owners" instead of "managers?" How do we move our hearts from "owning" our money to "managing" God's money?
3. Think about generosity. Do you consider yourself a generous person? Do you show generosity to poor and needy people? Do you think God is pleased with your level of giving? Do you need to make any changes in how you approach giving?

START SHARING

1. Read Malachi 3:10-11. What types of blessings have you seen come from tithing?
2. Can you think of a time when God provided for you in a supernatural way? Or protected you in a supernatural way? Share some of the story - it will encourage others.

START PRAYING

Lord, thank You for what You have given us – so many blessings that we cannot begin to count them. Please develop in us giving hearts that glorify You. Give us wisdom to know what to give, when to give and whom to give to. Change our attitudes towards giving - knowing that all things come from You, and it is because of Your generosity that we can give at all!

START DOING

1. Who are you inviting to our Bestseller series starting this Sunday, 9 February?
2. This week, set aside a time to pray about the Above & Beyond building project. Remember that God is the one who truly owns the money, and you are a steward of what He has loaned to you. Ask Him to show you how much He wants you to give to the project, then submit your anonymous pledge card.

FOR THE BUILDING PROJECT VIDEO:
[CLICK HERE](#)

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, in the final week of our Engage series, Steve shared a message titled, "Above and Beyond". Each year around this time, we usually teach about God's way of handling money. Jesus spoke about money often - it is clearly an important part of our lives and spirituality. As His Church, we should not be silent on this subject.

If we go back to our comparison between the cruise ship and the aircraft carrier which we've been using in the last couple of weeks, we can see two very different approaches to money:

- On the cruise ship, it's all about how the owners of the vessel can maximise your expenditure for their profits (and avoid making losses).
- On the aircraft carrier, the cost of every project - the whole mission - is underwritten by the government to whom the craft belongs.

If the local Church is an aircraft carrier, owned by God, then every expense is 'underwritten' by Him. Our Father in heaven owns everything, and He's underwriting our lives.

There are two ways of thinking about money:

1. Wordly system:

- buying and selling
- profits and losses
- "look after No. 1".

2. Kingdom of God way:

- God is No.1 (He owns it [all], and He loans it to us)
- Giving and receiving
- Supernatural provision
- Eternal treasure

We're born into the worldly system, but we're designed to live with Kingdom economics.

Four elements to Biblical finances:

1. Tithing
2. Giving/Offerings (generosity)
3. Saving
4. Spending wisely

This Sunday, we focussed on the difference between tithes and offerings.

	TITHES	OFFERING
KEY VERSES:	Malachi 3:10-11	2 Corinthians 9:6-8
WHAT?	First tenth First fruits [God is first]	Decide in your heart (offered) Over and above [God is generous]
WHERE?	The storehouse (the place where I'm spiritually fed)	Broad-level generosity (2 Cor 9:6-8) The poor (Acts 10:4) Apostolic giving (Phil 4:18) Special projects (Ex 25:1,2; 1 Chron 29)
PROMISE?	Protection & provision	Increase

Steve then referenced two stories of times in the Bible that people bought offerings:

STORY 1: Building of the tabernacle

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are

to receive the offering for me from everyone whose [heart prompts them] to give. Exodus 25:1,2

Moses said to the whole Israelite community ... Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering of gold, silver and bronze ... Exodus 35:4,5

... everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. Exodus 35:21

So all the skilled workers ... said to Moses, 'The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done.' And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work. Exodus 36:4-7

STORY 2: Building of the temple (1 Chronicles 29:1-11)

Then King David said to the whole assembly: ... The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God - gold ... silver ... bronze ... iron ... and wood ... Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?

Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. ... [gold, silver, bronze, iron & precious stones]

The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, 'Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours ...

Then Steve shared a third story...

STORY 3: The story of CityHill Church

The Church was started in the early '80s
1991 The Church purchased the mushroom farm (where Curro HCA school is now)
1991-1994 Renovated hall, built classrooms, started school
1997 Further extension of the 'barn' venue
2000-2006 Bought land, built the current main auditorium, moved in and settled all outstanding amounts.
2012-2013 Built current office block & kids facility
2020 We are giving above what we normally give to go beyond where we normally go - Above & Beyond!
This is a church that has had a history of willing-hearted faith-filled people! We can be so grateful to those who went before us.

ABOVE & BEYOND PROJECT

WHY?

1. Primarily triggered by the needs of our Nation Changers public benefit organisation including:
 - Packing and distributing 17 000 children's meals per month which are sent out to preschools

- The “Clothing Box” project where 65 entrepreneurs buy from donations of factory overrun and second-hand clothing and sell the clothing on at a profit. To date, we have moved 1500 bags of second-hand clothing. More recently we received a donation of 44,000 garments from Mr Price. We’ve had to hire off-site storage to store and sort the clothing donations.

For all of this, we’ve been operating out of four shipping containers.

2. Ladies Toilets - if you’ve been at an event like Flourish you’ll appreciate the need ;)

3. Offices - our staff has just about doubled over the last seven years.

WHAT?

Cost:	R10 000 000
Elders & Build Discount:	R 1 205 000
	(R855 000 + R 350 000)
Leaders (Cash & Pledges to date):	R 1 672 000
Still to be raised:	R 7 123 000

WHEN?

Once the building starts, it should be completed in 7 months. We are hoping to start in the middle of the year once some of the funds have come in.

HOW?

One day, each of us will stand before God and account for how we invested His money. It is up to each of us to prayerfully consider what offering God is prompting us to give to the building project!