

## Open Window's Pt 2-

Last week: Plural - More than one window.  
More than one source of blessing and opportunity

Malachi 3:10

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.

Matthew 6:21 New Living Translation (NLT)

<sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Psalm 37:4 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>4</sup> Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

We don't like to talk about money in the church do we...

- It kind of like politics – “let's not go there.”

Did you know that Jesus talked about money more than He did any other subject?

- Jesus talked much about money.
- Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions.
- In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money.
- The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions.

Why did Jesus use money? Scripture – Matthew 6:21 New Living Translation (NLT)

<sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Now we are talking about the Abundant Life right?

- Ok, so let me ask you, how many of you would say you are living the Abundant life if you got a 25% raise on your job this year?

- How about a 50% raise?
- Right?
- Now we are talking about Abundant Life.

See money doesn't solve all our problems... but it does solve a whole lot of our problems.

- Most stress in most relationships comes as a result of money problems.
- You think God doesn't see that?

Now let me say this,

- The blessing of money can also cause people to have problems.
- If you don't handle it properly, it can destroy you as fast as crack or alcohol or any addiction.
- In fact, it will become an addiction.
- It will land you in the divorce court as quick as anything else
- Because it creates opportunities.
- And if a person is not spiritually mature enough to handle those opportunities when they come, the opportunities **will** destroy you.

This is why God holds back on some people He wants to bless financially,

- Because He knows it would destroy them if He blessed them the way He really wants to bless them.
- This is why it's important for us to grow up spiritually, so God can **trust us with what He wants to give us.**

But look at this scripture. **Malachi 3:10**

**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.**

It sounds to me that God would like for His people to be blessed.

James 1:17 (KJV) Every good gift and every **perfect gift** is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God knows what we have need of.

- He knows the **perfect gift**.
- It may be finances
- It may be keeping our children safe
- It may be keeping our children healthy
- It may be helping us get an education
- It may be helping us make our mortgage or rent payment.
- It may be a new car or a new car to us
- It may be a healthy family
- It may be good marriage
- It may be all kinds of things that we don't think about when it comes to God blessing us.

We would rather have the money, but God knows that we couldn't handle the money right now.

- We might want better health, but God knows that we are learning to trust Him right now.
- It may be a new job, but God is teaching us to be faithful at the job He has already given us.
- It may be a better marriage, but God knows that we first have to learn to give of our selves completely and unreserved before He can bless our relationship with our spouse.
- Love yourself, forgive yourself
- Then, love the person you're married to and forgive them.

### **Ephesians 3:20**

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we **ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us,

See, all of these things **have to do with us**.

- God wants to bless us, but are we spiritually mature enough to receive the blessings?

We can pray for a better marriage all day long,

- But then you go treat our spouse like dirt.

- Do you think God is going to give you a better marriage?
- No!
- Some people say, well then I'll just get a divorce and find someone else.
- Go ahead... and treat that person like you treated the last person.
- And guess what is going to happen...

You have to first learn how to treat your spouse like you love them.

- So, instead of praying for a better marriage, pray for God to help you to really love and forgive and honor the person you are married to.
- You know what will come out of that?
- A better marriage!

Scripture "Every Good gift comes down from the father"

- He doesn't give bad gifts...
- He's not a cheapskate.
- He wants to bless
- But He can only bless us if we are first faithful and good stewards of what He has already given us.

### **Luke 6:38**

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good **measure**, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same **measure** that ye mete withal it shall be **measured** to you again.

Look at that... Give, and it shall be given unto you; good **measure**, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over,

We expect God to give that way...

- Give, and it shall be given unto you;
- good **measure**,
- pressed down,
- and shaken together,
- and running over,

But let me ask you...

- Do we give in good measure?
- Do we give pressed down?
- Do we give shaken together?
- Do we give running over?

Or do we give only what's necessary?

- Or the exact amount?

Look at the end of **Luke 6:38** that we all like to quote so much... For with the same **measure** that ye mete withal it shall be **measured** to you again.

If you measure to the line, then God's going to measure to the line.

- If you measure good,
- and pressed down,
- and shaken together
- and running over,
- then guess what God's going to do.
  - People ask me all the time, should I give on my net or my gross.
  - Well, let me ask you, which one is measuring to the line
  - And which one is good, measure and pressed down, and shaken together and running over?

See, it's not about the amount; it's about the **measure**.

- You can be the biggest giver in the church, but that won't mean a thing if that gift is not in accordance to the **measure** of your **capability**.

If someone gives 1000 dollars per week, that's wonderful, but they are still shortchanging themselves if they are making over a million dollars a year.

- They might say, I'm giving 1000 dollars a week.
- That's more than anyone else,
- But understand, that's 923.07 short of their tithe.
- And I'll just add, that their offering at that point should probably be exceeding their tithe.

- Hey, I'm not telling you anything I don't live myself.

Now I know that's not any of us, but you get the idea.

- God measures according to what we are capable of.
- That's why the tithe, (The tenth part of) is so important.
- It's God's measuring cup.

\*\*\* Here's something else we need to understand,

- **God gives to us in the measure we give to Him.**
- He does not do math the way we do.
- It's not a dollar amount or even entirely a percentage.
- It's what is in **our heart**.
  - Begrudgingly? He gives the same way.
  - With reservation? He gives the same way.
  - Cheerfully and with a full heart? He gives the same way.
  - I don't know about you, but I'd rather catch God on a day when He's pouring out blessings **cheerfully** and with a **full heart** than when He's doing it **begrudgingly**.

\*\*\* **Here's a point I want to make.**

When God finds someone whose wallet is open to the needs of the Kingdom, there are more "Windows" that will open to that person than they can look through.

- Opportunities for financial growth will come that they never knew existed...
- If you haven't experienced this in your life, you are missing out on an amazing way to live your life.

If I said, "If your heart is open to God, He will fill it."

- That makes sense to you right? You would expect me to say that right?
- Well in the same sense, if your wallet is open to God, He will fill it."

What? You think God's not able to bless you financially in ways you can't even imagine?

**Psalm 24:1 tells us... The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.**

And so does **Deuteronomy 10:14**

**...the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.**

And so does

**Exodus 9:29**

**...that thou mayest know how that the earth is the Lord's.**

And so does

**1 Corinthians 10:26**

**For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.**

And so does

**1 Corinthians 10:28**

**...for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:**

Listen... I need to kill a myth here...

- God's not stupid
- He's not a bad accountant
- He can do math with algorithms the brightest minds in the world can't even dream of.
- He knows where all His stuff is at.
- And He knows how to get it into the hands of people who will in turn be gracious and giving!

Hey, He helped Peter pay his taxes with a coin from a fishes mouth.

- You think He can't think of ways to help you pay your bills?
- See, we just got to stop leaning on your own understanding and start trusting – really trusting God!

"I can't pay my tithe Pastor!"

- "Why not?"
- "I got other bills to pay."
- "Oh, I see, you've got God on the back end of your budget..."
- Well, let me ask you, if we are talking about the "Same Measure", where do you think God has your financial blessings?
- You got Him on the back end and you want Him to have you on the front end?

- God's not going to violate the spiritual laws He has already established just because you don't have faith.

That's why He asks **you** for the first fruits.

- Because He wants to bless you with **His** first fruits.

People are like, "I'm just waiting on God to bless me..."

- Well is it possible that He's just measuring in the same measure you are measuring with?

"Man, it just seems like we never have quite enough..."

- Well, is it possible that He's just measuring in the same measure you are measuring with?

See, we can't figure out why it's so close sometimes

- and yet, that is the same way we are giving to God.
- Should we really expect anything different?

"I'm just barely getting by!"

- Well, maybe you're just barely giving enough."

We're talking about The Abundant Life

- I don't think there's a thing wrong with talking about being blessed financially if we are going to talk about the Abundant Life.

See, giving is a form of worship.

- Just like singing
- Or raising your hands
- Or praising Him.

I've been in church long enough to see people shout, jump up and down, clap their hands, stand to their feet, and all kinds of things and call that worship,

- But let the offering bucket go by and it's another story...
- Let the offering of their "First Fruits" happen, and they got nothing to give.



Comcast got theirs.

- AT&T and Verizon got theirs.
- The car lender got theirs.
- The landlord and mortgage company got theirs
- Nipsco got theirs
- McDonalds and Starbucks and the Pizza joint got theirs.
- Their house was taken care of, but what about God's house?

See God measures in the same way you measure.

- If you put your house in front of His house...
- What do you think is going to happen?
- But what could happen if you were to put the needs of His house in front of the wants of your house?

That's why the Bible talks about first fruits.

- See giving is a part of our worship.
- And it is our "First Fruit" worship.
- Other words, it's the first thing God is looking for in our worship.
- Giving is never about money its about our hearts

See, for some people giving is more important than the emotion of worship as we know it because its **first fruits**.

### **Genesis 8:22**

While the earth remaineth, **seedtime and harvest**, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night **shall not cease**.

### **Seed time.**

- That's what the offering is about.
- We treat it like it's some undesired thing we have to do in the service.
- "There they go again, taking up the offering!"
- Or like we are trying to keep the lights on or something.

The offering in the service is the time to plant some seed.

- Why do we plant seed?

- Because we know we need there to be a harvest.

You can't harvest what you haven't planted.

- That's called stealing.

Some people want other people's blessings,

- but they haven't planted the seed that those people planted.

### Genesis 8:22

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night **shall not cease.**

There is still a chance to get a harvest.

- It's not too late.
- But you can't begin to receive it if you don't plant it.

You know I've been in churches where they clap their hands and worship while the offering is being taken up.

- They truly treat it as a form of their worship.
- In fact, I've seen the offering time turn into one of the most spiritual points of the service.
- Because people truly treated it like worship.

Giving to God is Worship.

- It's our opportunity to sew seeds into His kingdom and as a result allow Him to open some windows of opportunity into our own lives. Mal 3:10

God does not need your money – heart.

- Remember our focus scripture “the thief comes to kill steal and destroy.”
- One of the biggest lies in the church world is that preachers shouldn't talk about money in the pulpit.
- Jesus did.
- In fact, He talked about money more than He talked about most anything else.

- Critics of the church and people who simply don't respect and honor God's word would want to silence Pastors when it comes to certain subjects and for years one of the biggest things most pastors are scared to death to talk about is money.

I'm not afraid to talk about money and I'll tell you why...

- I love you.
- I want you to be blessed.
- I want God's best for your lives.
- I'm tired of seeing God's children struggling and scratching to get ahead in this world.

We are **not** second rate.

- We are **not** His step children.
- Because of His death on the Cross, we are not only heirs, but Joint heirs with Jesus Christ to every blessing this Bible talks about and that includes what belongs to **Our Heavenly Father**.
- **"The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof".**
- If I am a joint heir, then that let's me know that God's not going to hold back when it comes time to hand out the inheritance.

Here me on this as I finish:

- The prosperity of God in your life goes way beyond your bank account.
- God uses your bank account to set you up for other things to happen.

The Message Bible

2 Cor 9: <sup>6-7</sup> Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

<sup>8-11</sup> God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it,

He throws caution to the winds,  
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.  
His right-living, right-giving ways  
never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.