

**Beyond Blessed - Part 3**  
**"The Choices we Make..."**  
**October 12-13th, 2019**

**Intro:**

- This is part 3 of our Beyond Blessed series & its been amazing to hear the stories of so many of you who are taking this Information to Heart & it is literally changing your life!

- Week 1: Ownership / Price - Most of our Money Problems aren't Money Problems, they're "Belief" Problems.

- Challenge them to **read the book...**

- Week 2: Stewardship... Pastor Ben

- [www.NLC.com/beyondblessed](http://www.NLC.com/beyondblessed)

- This Weekend: The "Choices" we make!!!

- WATCHING BIGGEST LOSER ILL.

- It breaks my heart when I hear the stories of how people got to the size they are, but it always comes down to one thing... the choices they've made.

- The choices they have made have not led them where they want to go.

- They need to make different choices so they can live a different reality.

- The same is true with our money!!!

- When it comes to our money, we all make choices... so here's the question:

? *"What kind of choices have we made about our money up to this point?"*

*"Where have those choices led us to so far?"*

- Will the same choices lead us to a different destination?

- This weekend, we're going to talk about the Biggest Choice we have to make if we're going to change our financial picture!

**Deuteronomy 30:15-19**

- On our death bed we always say what's most important, don't we!?!

- These are the dying words of Moses.

v. 15 “See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

v. 16 “For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.”

v. 17-18 “But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.”

v. 19 “This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.”

- Moses says, “Listen, there’s a way to live your life that will bring the Blessing of God and there’s a way to live your life that will bring a Curse from God.”

- Moses said, “When you walk in obedience to what God tells you to do, it WILL bring blessing upon you, I promise!!!”

**? So what did God command us concerning our money?**

- If there is a God that gives us the ability to live under His blessing, then we are going to want to do that in EVERY area of our life...

- But *ESPECIALLY* in the area of money!!!

Malachi 3:6-7 “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

- IOW, what evidence do we need to produce outwardly to show you that we’ve returned inwardly???

v. 8-9 “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ ‘In tithes and offerings.’ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.”

v. 10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.”

#### 4 Thoughts about our Money Choices:

### **1. When it comes to our money, the real issue is about Control.**

**A. We want to be in control of what we do with our money!**

- The Bible word for “Control” is “Lordship.”
- IOW, letting God be “The Lord” of our Finances! & that’s scary & takes faith doesn’t it?!?
- If we believe there is a God, then wouldn’t we want Him to be our Financial Partner when it comes to our Money?!?

**B. The children of Israel were out of fellowship with God because they were being disobedient in the one outward demonstrator... their money!!!**

### **2. A break in fellowship brought a Curse on them, their children and their land.**

**A. They could never experience the life God wanted them to live as long as they were out of fellowship with God.**

- A Father can’t bless a son that is stealing from them!!!

**B. A SON OR DAUGHTER STEALING FROM THEIR PARENTS ILL.**

- The relationship won’t ever be right & the parents certainly aren’t going to ever fully bless & be generous to the kid as long as they know they’re stealing from them.

**C. That’s where God’s children were.**

- So they asked Him, “What do we do?”
- He points to their money!!! What?!?

- I mean, wouldn't He say,
  - "Give me your heart!"
  - "Attend Church!"
  - "Take Sunday's Off." Aka the Sabbath...
  - "Don't drink or smoke, or cuss anymore."

D. Of all the things God *could have* chosen to demonstrate their obedience to Him, God chose MONEY! Why???

- *B/c God knows that our money is the thing that is closest to our heart*
- *& it is the thing that we want to CONTROL THE MOST in our lives!*

E. So when God asks them to "tithe" He's saying, "Give me control of the first 10% of your finances and that will prove to me that you are truly surrendered under my Lordship!!!"

- **God doesn't need our money! He wants our heart!!!**

- Here's the greatest part: When we do that...

### **3. God attaches a promise to the tithe!**

v. 10b "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."

- Seriously! Think about that!
- When we honor God with our finances, He PROMISES to take care of us!!!

A. The Bible says the Tithe is:

#### 1) The Lord's.

- It belongs to Him.
- God can do more with a Blessed 90%, then a Cursed 100%!
- (Remember: Robbing God!)

#### 2) The 1st 10%.

- God doesn't say, "Pay all your bills, do what you want & then if there's anything left at the end of the month, bring that to me!"

- He says, "Bring me the 1st!!! Not the Leftovers!"

### 3) To be Returned.

- It ALL already belongs to Him, He just asks us to Return the 1st 10% of it to Him!!!

- DAD GIVING A KID \$10, THEN ASKING FOR \$1 BACK ILL.

- Sure!!!

### 4) The Doorway to Blessing.

v. 10b "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."

B. God's desire is to Bless His Children so we can be a blessing to the world around us!!!

- Definition: Beyond Blessed - "Blessed to be a Blessing!"

- Generosity gets people's attention like nothing else can!!!

- PAYING FOR SOMEONE IN LINE ILL.

- IRMA ILL.

C. MIP: ? What if... God is trying to get your attention to live your financial life differently so He can bless you so you can be a blessing to others???

## 4. He commands us to Test Him.

A. In every other place in the Bible, we are commanded NOT to test God, except in this area of finances! Why???

- Because It's a Lordship Issue!

- God wants to demonstrate that He is better at being in control of our finances than we are!!!

B. Note: Difference between a Tithe and an Offering:

- A tithe is to be given to the Lord with no strings attached to the storehouse (local church) where we are fed!
  - Purpose: To fuel the Mission of God forward!
  - The Local Church is God's Plan A to reach the world with the message of Jesus Christ!!!
- God says, bring the “whole tithe” into the storehouse!!!
- An offering is ours to designate and control.
  - So we can't give a part of our tithe to a missionary & a part to a local charity, and a part to the Local Church.

**C. Ask anyone who's put God first and they'll tell you the difference this choice makes!!!**

**- STORY OF A TITHER**

**Conclusion:**

- We all make choices with our money... our choices lead us where we are & where we will go!
  - The Most Important Choice we can make with our Money is to Put God 1st & Invite His Blessing on our Finances!!!

**? So what choice will you make?**

- Will we choose to Trust Him? Or keep doing it our way???

**- CARD ON YOUR SEAT – The path to Financial Freedom in our life Centers around The Tithe!!!**

- We Wholeheartedly believe that around here.

**- Will you take God's challenge?**

- Will you relinquish control and allow Him to be Lord over your finances?

**- Explain the Card... the 90 Tithing Challenge, etc.**

- In the same way that I have asked you to commit to reading, make a decision to get out of debt, pay the price, I'm asking you with the same intensity & passion to commit to tithing!
- You have never seen God work in your life like He will when you give Him the first 10% of all your increase.

**PRAY**