



Giving as an Act of Worship

Giving is incredibly important when it comes to growing a healthy parish. Giving is even more important when it comes to discipleship. Michael White and Tom Corcoran, authors of *Rebuilt—Awakening the Faithful; Reaching the Lost; Making Church Matter*, put it this way,

Successful church funding should be about planting fruit-bearing trees—parishioners who are givers. We should be raising givers. Our education regarding giving began with the teaching found in the third chapter of Malachi. *“Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of Hosts. But you say, ‘Why should we return?’ Can anyone rob God? But you are robbing me!” “And you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ Of tithes and contributions! ... Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...try me in this, says the Lord of hosts: Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven, to pour down blessing upon you without measure?”*

God promises blessing in our churches and over our lives if we’ll just honor his word...Notice how God says, “Try me in this.” He is asking us to test him. When it comes to our money, God wants us to test him and see if he will not be faithful. Just try it and see if he won’t work his blessings in your life and the life of your parish. It’s a challenge.

The Tithe Many Catholics hear “tithing” and tune out. Tithing is established as the consistent standard for worship-giving throughout the Bible beginning in Genesis. The argument that the tithe is an Old Testament command superseded in the New Testament is convenient but wrong. Jesus said he came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. In Matthew 23:23 and in Luke 11:42, Jesus explicitly addresses tithing and commends it...God wants us to recognize him as the owner of everything and to diligently embrace our role as stewards of what we have and hold on his behalf.

Worship is the act of giving value to something. We encourage you to give as an act of worship. Do it to honor God and grow as a disciple. We challenge you to take the step that’s the next step for you to begin to honor the biblical standard on which the tithe is based. Start with becoming a Planned Giver: designate money in your budget to give. The next step is to become a Priority Giver: give to God first before other expenses. Then move to becoming a Percentage Giver: give a percentage, not a dollar amount. Finally move to becoming a Progressive Giver: increase the percentage you give regularly.

Worship must cost us something. But, on the other hand, it’s also an investment. The wisest thing we can do with our money is to fund the work of God’s kingdom.