



FIRST THINGS FIRST

WEEK 3: BUT FIRST GOD

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Tithing and Firstfruits

Putting God first through worship, trust, priority, and obedience.

SERMON REWIND

This week focuses on the invitation to put God first with what He has entrusted to us.

Throughout Scripture, God teaches His people to bring their first and best, not their last and leftover. Tithing is not simply about a percentage. It is about priority, trust, worship, and obedience.

Many people have questions about tithing, but the heart of it is simple: God wants our hearts. He is not interested in what is left after everything else has been consumed. He invites us to honor Him first because He is forming us into people who trust Him.

Tithing is not the ceiling of generosity. It is the starting place of surrendered stewardship.

This week is an opportunity for each person to take a faithful next step. Some may need to start giving. Some may need to give consistently. Some may need to move toward tithing. Some may need to stretch beyond tithing.

When we put God first, His blessing continues through us to others.

KEY VERSES

Malachi 3:7-10 (NIV)

Additional Verses: Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) Matthew 23:23 (NIV)

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 First and Best

God teaches His people to bring their first and best, not their last and leftover.

- a. What does it communicate when we give God our first and best?
- b. Why can it be easy to give God what is left over instead of putting Him first?

2 More Than a Percentage

Tithing is not only about math. It is about priority, trust, worship, and obedience.

- a. How does it change the way we understand tithing when we see it as worship?
- b. Which word feels most challenging to you: priority, trust, worship, or obedience? Why?

3 Returning to God

In Malachi, God connects returning to Him with the way His people handle tithes and offerings.

- a. Why do you think God connects our hearts with the way we give?
- b. What might giving reveal about our trust in God?

4 A Starting Place

Tithing is not the ceiling of generosity. It is the starting place of surrendered stewardship.

- a. Why is it helpful to think about tithing as a starting place instead of the finish line?
- b. What does open-handed generosity beyond obligation look like?

5

Taking a Faithful Next Step

Each person's next step may look different, but everyone can take a step toward putting God first.

- a. What are some faithful next steps people might take in generosity?
- b. What is one next step Jesus may be inviting you to consider?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Putting God first is not just something we believe. It becomes visible in how we order our lives.

- Where are you most tempted to give God what is left over?
- What would it look like to trust God with the first and best in this season?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, practice putting God first by:

- Pray honestly about your current giving rhythm.
- Ask Jesus, "What is my next faithful step?"
- Consider one step toward starting, consistency, tithing, or growing in generosity.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you trust God with the first and best of what He has entrusted to you.

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Let the group close by remembering that Jesus calls us to seek first His Kingdom. When God is first, generosity becomes part of worship, trust, and obedience.

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