

January 21/22, 2006

**Study Questions**  
**“Test Me Now in This”**  
**Malachi 1:7-14; 3:8-12**  
Pastor Bryan Clark

**Opening Discussion**

1. What makes a gift meaningful to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do you feel when you know someone is giving to you out of obligation rather than from the heart? In that case, is something better than nothing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does it mean to give God your best? What does that cost you? Should God be satisfied with something rather than nothing?

**Bible Study**

1. Read Malachi 1:7-14. What is the problem God identifies?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is God’s point in 1:8?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. According to 1:9, do we really have a right to expect God’s favor if we dishonor God with our giving?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Compare David’s attitude in I Chronicles 21:24. What is the point of our giving? Does God have cash flow problems? What actually makes our giving an act of worship?

5. Read Malachi 3:7-12. What is the problem God identifies?
  
6. What is God's challenge to the people? Compare that with II Corinthians 9:6-12 and Haggai 1:3-6. When we fail to give our best to God (when we rob God) who ultimately suffers? When we give to God are we gaining or losing? What is the principle of sowing and reaping?

## **Application**

1. God challenged His people to test Him in this area of giving. What does that mean to you?
  
2. Is God getting the best of your time, talent and treasure? Is there an area where you could do better? What would be the practical steps toward improvement in that area?
  
3. If everyone at LBC gave 10% to God we'd have an annual budget of \$13.5 million. This means we could easily have the new auditorium paid off the day we move in. Would you commit to praying that God would move His people to give generously with a goal of being debt free by Easter of 2007 as a testimony of God's faithfulness?