

**MULTIPLY - 1**  
**GOD MUST BE FIRST**  
**Pastor Robert Morris, Gateway Church – TX, USA**

*Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine." Exodus 13:1-2 NKJV*

*That you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup> But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. Exodus 13:12-13 NKJV*

**1. The Firstborn Must Be Sacrificed or Redeemed**

**2. The Firstfruits Must Be Offered**

*The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. God will never be on second only first! Exodus 23:19 NKJV*

*Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; <sup>10</sup> So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV*

*And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering. Genesis 4:3-5 NKJV*

**3. The Tithe Must Be First**

*And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30 NKJV*

*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: <sup>2</sup> On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 NKJV*

*So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' Exodus 13:14-15 NKJV*

## TALK IT OVER

- What are some areas where you see that you haven't put God first?
- What point from the message really stuck out to you the most? How did it speak to you?
- Is God first in your life? What are you going to do about that question this week?

Talk it over with someone who will help you put God first this week. Watch a Talk It Over video or download a LifeGroup study guide at [www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover](http://www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover).

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What is one of the biggest sacrifices you have ever made? How did that sacrifice impact you?

**With your Bible or YouVersion, read Exodus 13:1-15, Proverbs 3:9-10, and Genesis 4:3-5.**

These passages explain God's desire to have the first fruits of our possessions and resources given to Him.

- What are some of the things you have lost because you did not give to God first?
- In what ways are you unclean? How can you become clean with God?
- What things keep you from giving your first fruits to God?

**Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 and Leviticus 27:30.**

These verses discuss the importance of tithing.

- What does tithing currently look like for you?
- What are some of the blessings you have experienced as a result of tithing?
- Why is it so important that we give God our tithe first?
- What changes do you need to make to ensure that your tithe is the first thing you give to God?
- What kind of legacy could you leave for your family or those in your sphere of influence through your example of tithing?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you understand the importance of giving your tithe first to God:

In Malachi 3:10, God tells us to test Him with the tithe. It is the only place in the Bible where God asks us to test Him. If you are not currently tithing, consider taking a three month tithing challenge by signing up online <http://www.lifechurch.tv/giving/challenge>. Commit to tithing regularly for three months. If you do not see God's blessings in that time, then stop tithing at the end of the three month period.

Make a list of some of the blessings you have experienced in your life as a result of tithing. Keep this list in a place where you can see it so it serves as a reminder of the blessings of tithing. Use this list as an encouragement during times when you struggle with tithing. Share this list with someone you know that struggles with tithing so that you can be an encouragement and example to them of the blessings of tithing.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Thank God for the blessings He has given you as a result of your tithing.
- Tell God your struggles with tithing. Ask Him to help you be more diligent with tithing and managing your finances.
- Commit to God that you will give to him the first fruits of your labor. Commit to making the changes necessary to make that happen.
- Ask God to help you impact those around you in a positive way for generations to come as a result of your tithing.
- Confess those areas of your life where you are unclean. Ask for God's forgiveness and to cleanse you.

**MULTIPLY - 2**  
**PRINCIPLES OF MULTIPLICATION**  
**Pastor Robert Morris, Gateway Church – TX, USA**

*When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." <sup>13</sup> But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people." <sup>14</sup> For there were about five thousand men. And He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty." <sup>15</sup> And they did so, and made them all sit down. <sup>16</sup> Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. <sup>17</sup> So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.*  
Luke 9:12-17 NKJV

- 1. It has to be blessed before it can multiply.**
- 2. It has to be given away before it can multiply.**

**TALK IT OVER**

- Share a time when you saw God bless someone's generosity.
- What would you be willing to give to see God bless your finances?
- What is your first step towards seeing God's power to multiply in your life?

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- What is the biggest thing you have ever given away? How were you impacted by your act of giving?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 9:12-17.

This passage tells the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with only two fish and five loaves of bread.

- Why is it always better to give than receive?
- What things can we learn about the abundance of God's provision from this story?
- What are some of the things holding you back from being able to give more freely to God and others?
- In what ways have you seen God multiply your resources as a result of your giving?
- What are some of the biggest blessings God has given you? What do these blessings mean to you?
- To whom or what do you feel God is calling you to give more of your resources to?
- What radical changes do you need to make so that you can give in such a way that God will multiply your blessings?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you work towards living a truly blessed life:

If you would like to dig deeper into Pastor Robert Morris's message of multiplying your resources, consider reading his book *The Blessed Life*. This book will show you how God can change your heart from selfishness to generosity and how that change will impact every area of your life. You can learn more about the book at this link:  
<http://www.amazon.com/Blessed-Life-Achieving-Guaranteed-Financial/dp/0830736352>.

Put this message into action by giving something away this week to someone you know in need or to your church. It doesn't matter if your gift is big, medium or small. Your gift could be money, a possession or both. Pray and ask God to show you what He wants you to give and who He wants you to give it to. Don't let this be a one-time act. Commit to making giving a regular part of your life.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Ask God to show you what He wants you to give and who He wants you to give it to. Commit to carrying out your act of giving.
- Confess to God those things that are holding you back from giving like you should. Seek His guidance and help.
- Thank God for the many blessings He has given you. Take time to praise Him.
- Commit to God that you will make the changes necessary that will enable you to give in the way God desires.
- Ask God to give you opportunities to meet the needs of others. Commit to making the most of these opportunities.

## MULTIPLY—3 SOWING AND REAPING

- **WHAT YOU KEEP IS ALL YOU HAVE. WHAT YOU GIVE, GOD MULTIPLIES.**

*“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap...” Luke 6:38*

### PRINCIPLES OF SOWING AND REAPING

- **YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.**

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Galatians 6:7*

- **YOU REAP MORE THAN YOU SOW.**

*“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.” Matthew 19:29*

### GIVING TRUTHS

- 1) **YOUR HEART MATTERS WHEN YOU GIVE.**

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

- 2) **YOU CANNOT OUT-GIVE GOD.**

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” <sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:8-10*

- 3) **PEOPLE WILL THANK GOD BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU GIVE.**

*You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11*

All verses are NIV 1984 unless otherwise noted.

Experience the scriptures referenced in today’s message  
and much more at **www.YouVersion.com**,  
the free online Bible that will revolutionize the way  
you interact with God’s Word.

## TALK IT OVER

- What misunderstandings about sowing and reaping do you think you've had?
- Share an example of a way you've seen God multiply. How does that story illustrate the concept of sowing and reaping?
- What is the biggest lesson you will take away from this series? How will you let it change you?

Talk it over with someone who will help you take your next steps toward seeing God multiply in your life. Watch a Talk It Over video or download a LifeGroup study guide at **[www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover](http://www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover)**.

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- Who is the most generous person you know? What have you learned from them about giving?

**With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 6:38, Galatians 6:7 and Matthew 19:29.**

These verses teach us the principles of sowing and reaping.

- In what ways have you experienced the principles of sowing and reaping? Examples can come from anywhere from gardening to giving.
- How have you seen God multiply what you have given?
- What are you currently sowing and reaping? What seeds should you be sowing that you are not?

**With your Bible or YouVersion, read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11.**

Paul describes three truths about giving in this passage.

- What does your heart currently look like when it comes to giving? How can you develop a more cheerful heart when you give? What would it take for you to give until it's fun?
- Why is it important to give with a cheerful heart?
- What are some ways you have benefited from the generosity of others?
- How have you become more like Christ as a result of your giving?
- Where do you feel God is calling you to be more generous?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you work towards living a life of generosity:

Come up with a plan to make generosity a regular part of your life. Start by writing down where God is calling you to give. Next, address the debt you need to pay off so it won't hinder your giving. Then, commit to tithing if you are not already doing so. Next, identify how you will adjust to your lifestyle so that you can be more generous. Finally, begin to incorporate your plan into your daily living. Give until it's fun!

Put this message into action by giving something away this week. It doesn't matter if your gift is big or small. Ask God to show you what He wants you to give and who He wants you to give it to. Don't let this be a one-time act. Commit to make giving a regular part of your life.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Ask God to show you the seeds He wants you to be planting right now in your life. Commit to sow those seeds.
- Confess the things that keep you from giving in the way God desires. Ask Him to help you remove those things from your life.
- Commit to give with a cheerful heart in all areas of life. Ask God to give you a giving heart like His.
- Thank God for the generosity you have been shown from Him and from others. Praise Him.
- Commit to be more generous when giving to God and to those in need.