

## **Be Careful What You Pray For**

Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test, me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgate of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

The late great Baptist preacher W. A. Criswell tells a humorous story about tithing. He tells of an ambitious young man who called on his pastor and promised to tithe, and so together they knelt in prayer to make the promise and to ask God’s blessings on the young fellow’s career. He was making \$40 a week at the time and therefore tithed four dollars a week. God indeed blessed his business and soon he was tithing \$500 a week! He decided he had better call upon his pastor and see if he could do something about this tithing thing. It was getting too costly to tithe at that rate.

The young man went to the pastor and related to him his problem. He said, “It was no problem to tithe when I was only making \$40 a week. Now it is up to \$500 a week and I cannot afford that.” The pastor said, “I do not see how you can be released from your promise. But I tell you what we can do. We can kneel down and ask God to cut your income back to about forty dollars, then it will make it easy for you to tithe four dollars.”

We laugh at that story but how many times are we tempted to think about what we could do with the money we have set aside to give to God? We pray for His blessing and then when we receive it we worry about how much it costs us to give back to God. As our ushers come forward today let’s give our offerings without a grudge of how much it is costing us. Let’s let our giving be one of praise and thanksgiving for all that God has blessed us with.