

**TALK
IT
OVER**

**NORTHERN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
THE BLESSED LIFE
THE BLESSED TEST – WEEK 2 (March 27, 2011)**

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 your next step.

In your Bible, read Luke 16:1-13.

In this parable, Jesus instructs us that if we are not good stewards of worldly wealth, then God will not trust us with true riches.

- If someone was to look at your checkbook today, what would they learn about your priorities based upon how you spend your money? Do you think your priorities align with God's?

Read Matthew 6:19-24 and Ecclesiastes 5:10.

These verses show us that we cannot serve both God and money and that there is no satisfaction in the love of money.

- Describe a time in your life where you placed your trust in money and not in God. How did the situation ultimately turn out? What did you learn from this experience?

Read Leviticus 27:30, Deuteronomy 14:23, and Malachi 3:7-11.

These verses emphasize the importance of giving the tithe to God and returning to God what is His.

- What does tithing currently look like in your own life? Is it something you do well or is it something you struggle with? How have you seen your life blessed because of your tithing? How have you seen others blessed because of your tithing?
- How has tithing affected your faith and relationship with God? What things have you learned about God and His blessings?

Read Matthew 23:23 and Proverbs 3:9-10.

These verses instruct us to give to God His tithe first rather than waiting to give it last.

It requires faith to give first. If you give last, it doesn't require faith.

- Describe a time when you gave first. What blessing resulted from your act of faith?

NEXT STEP

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you take steps toward living a blessed life.

- If you are not currently tithing, consider taking the Three Month Tithing Challenge. Commit to tithing for three months and you will see God's blessings in that time.
- 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 and will be an encouragement during times when you struggle with tithing.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations.

- Thank God for the blessings He has given you as a result of giving back to Him through the tithe.
- Pray and ask God to bless others through your tithe. Pray for the projects, people and ministries supported through our church.
- Discuss your struggles with money with God in prayer. Ask Him for strength in overcoming your fears.
- Commit to God in prayer that you will place your faith and trust in Him and not in money.
- Pray and ask God to help you shift your priorities away from material things and back towards Him.

