



## 1 Kings 17:7-16 New International Version

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land.<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him:<sup>9</sup> “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.”<sup>10</sup> So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?”<sup>11</sup> As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

<sup>12</sup> “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

<sup>13</sup> Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.”<sup>14</sup> For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.”

<sup>15</sup> She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.<sup>16</sup> For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

What you **PRACTICE**, you **PROCLAIM**.

What you **Proclaim** you become

What you **permit** you **promote**



## HABITS OF A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN

Our Biggest Obstacle to Faith is **FEAR**

The Best Cure for Fear is **ACTION**

Contagious Christians see **POSSIBILITIES**

*“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.”*  
John 6:5-6

*“Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see...” Malachi 3:10*

*“Taste and see that the LORD is good...” Psalm 34:8*

Contagious Christians **SOW FAITHFULLY**

*Give and it will be given to you.*

**TITHE** is what God designates

**OFFERING** is what we designate

Contagious Christian live for **ETERNITY**

Are you building a spiritual **HOTEL** or a **HOME**

# LIVING WORD

## Giving God Leftovers?

*“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.”*

—Proverbs 3:9

Leftovers. They are a wonderful timesaver in the kitchen and sometimes even seem to taste better than the original meal. But when we honor someone with a meal, we would never think of using leftovers as a way to honor our guests. (Unless you never want them to return!)

The same is true when it comes to the way we worship and honor our King, the Lord Jesus Christ. If we truly want to honor Him, it will not be with our “leftovers”. Everything we have, everything we are, and everything we hope to become are rooted in God’s creation of us and His graciousness toward us through Christ. Our time, money, and abilities are actually His. We should not give Him our time, money or abilities IF “there is some leftover at the end of the month”. We only honor God when we give to Him first, trusting that He will provide for the rest of our time, money, and energy needs.

Proverbs 3:9 urges us to honor God by practicing first fruit giving with our money. We basically have five general alternatives when it comes to what we do with our income: (1) the support of a chosen lifestyle; (2) whatever is needed for the repayment of debt because of that lifestyle; (3) the payment of taxes; (4) what we save and invest for the future; and (5) what we give away. What order of priority do these five alternatives take in your life? Does Proverbs 3:9 make a difference in helping you determine those priorities?

People protect what they love?

How can they protect what they don’t understand?

*“Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”* Psalm 34:8

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” <sup>6</sup>He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages<sup>[a]</sup> to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” John 6:5-6

You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup>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 floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Malachi 3:9-10

### **1 Corinthians 3:6**

I planted the seed, and Apollos watered it. But God is the One who made it **grow**.

You are robbing me of the offerings and of the ten percent that belongs to me.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>9</sup>That's why your whole nation is under a curse. <sup>10</sup> I am the LORD All-Powerful, and I challenge you to put me to the test. Bring the entire ten percent into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house. Then I will open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessing after blessing. I will also stop locusts from destroying your crops and keeping your vineyards from producing. <sup>12</sup> Everyone of every nation will talk about how I have blessed you and about your wonderful land. I, the LORD All-Powerful, have spoken! **Malachi 3:8-12**

**People who worry that they're going to give up more for God than they'll gain are underestimating His Character. Bill Hybels**

**God is the reason why even in pain, I smile  
In confusion, I understand;  
In betrayal, I trust;  
And in fear, I continue to fight.**