

Poured Out, But Filled Up

2024-12-09 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Malachi 3

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

A widow was about to lose her sons to a creditor. All she had in the house was one small jar of oil. Elisha told her to borrow every empty container she could find and start pouring. The oil kept flowing until the jars ran out. Pastor Matt's point is that nobody in the story was responsible for the miracle. The widow was only responsible for the obedience. She brought what was actually in her house. Malachi 3:10 is the one place God says test me in this. The invitation is the same: bring what you have and let God do the part that is his.

To get started

- What is the smallest thing you have ever seen God do something with?

Looking back at the message

This closed a five-week series on trusting God with money. Some of the group will have been present for all of it.

- 1 Pastor Matt said his job is to take the step and God's job is to multiply it. Which of those two jobs do you keep trying to do yourself?
- 2 Pastor Matt described a cycle: God blesses us, we get afraid of losing what we have, so we grip it tight while asking God for more. Where do you see that cycle in your own life?
- 3 Pastor Matt said the first person to talk to about any big decision, before your spouse, your friends, or your parents, is God. What order do you actually follow? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read 2 Kings 4:1-7, then Malachi 3:10. Note where the oil stops.

- 4 Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. What did the widow already have in the house, and what was she told to do with it?
- 5 The oil stops flowing the moment the jars run out. What set the limit on the miracle, God's supply or the widow's containers?
- 6 Read Malachi 3:10. This is the only place in Scripture where God invites us to test him. What exactly does he invite us to test?
- 7 Read Luke 12:16-21. The rich man built bigger barns and died that night. What was his actual mistake? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

This is about faith more than finances. Keep saying so, and do not let it become a guilt session.

- 8 Pastor Matt said this story is about trusting God, not just about money. Where else is your trust being tested right now?
- 9 What is in your house right now, a skill, a room, some savings, some time, that God could use?
- 10 Think about the thing weighing on you most. Have you actually talked to God about it, or only thought about it near him?
- 11 At year end our church wrote down one word each, naming what we were asking God to do in the next year. What is your word for the coming year? OPTIONAL

The group together

The widow had to borrow jars from neighbors. The miracle required other people.

- 12 The widow's miracle depended on borrowing jars from her neighbors. What does that tell you about needing other people?
- 13 Money is usually the hardest thing to be honest about in a group. Why do you think that is?
- 14 How could this group hold onto each other's one-word prayers and keep praying them through the year?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What step is yours to take, and what part will you have to leave to God?

You might pray about

- For the steps of faith people took and have not seen results from yet
- For those under real financial pressure
- For freedom from fear of losing what we have