

Introduction:

- *"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities". (Isaiah 54:2-3 ESV)*
- *I want to talk about making room for God in our lives. That is what this tent is about. It represents the space we give to God.*
 - Some of you...parents...your lives are so cluttered that you are missing the blessing of God because you have no space for God. Your life is too full of stuff.
- What happens when you make room for God? He makes room for you. You make room for God in your life and God will make room for you in His Life. Zoé - the God kind of life.
 - I am going to share with you how you can make room for God in your life. If you want to see God move in your life you have to make room for him.
 - The first way is easy...it is learning to return to God what is His and giving to others. God actually designed what I am about to say because he wants us to test Him.
- *"Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts". Malachi 3:8-12 (ESV)*

I. Make Room By Tithing

- A. We make room for God in our lives by tithing. It was the one of the first ways that God proved himself to me. He made a believer out of me. Remember the watch I showed you last month? When I tithe, I am saying to God I trust you with my life. When I sow my offerings I am creating space for God to work a miracle.
- B. Robbing God is when I keep what God intends me to return to him and I refuse to share with others.
 1. Tithe - tithe=tenth, this first 10th belongs to God, because it is His.
 2. Offerings - comes from what belongs to me. And when I give what belongs to me away that is called an offering.
 3. God wants us to do both! When we do we are demonstrating faith. Walking in faith.
- C. Notice what God said, *"Put me to the test!" "See if I will not open the windows of heaven."*

1. Do you like tests? Do you like taking tests? Book test – not good. New Recipe - good!
2. Heb. - bahan (test) - it denotes examining to determine essential qualities, especially integrity. Oswalt, J. N. (1999). [230.1m3](#). In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 100). Moody Press. "Yahweh continually assays/tests the hearts of his people that in the end they may come forth as gold." Oswalt, J. N. (1999). [230.1m3](#). In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 100). Moody Press.
3. Patents you children need to see and hear you tithe. You have to show them that you trust God. They have to see God work on your behalf. Make room for God make a testimony for Him!

II. God Always Uses The Little We Have - God does not look at the amount. He looks at the measure.

- A. I want to tell you two stories. 1 Kings 17:8-ff; 2 Kings 4:1-ff
 1. Each story has a prophet
 2. Each story has a widow with kids
 3. Each story has problem
 4. Each story has a great ending!
- B. The two prophets are Elijah and Elisha.
 1. Prophets are people who know things! They know things by the Spirit of God. They do not know everything, only what God shows them.
 2. Prophets speak to people for God. Ie. Like Moses was a prophet. He would spend time with God. Then he would go tell the people what God said.
 3. These two prophets represent the word of the Lord and the potential move of God contained in their words.
 - a) I say it is potential because it requires us to do something in order to see our miracle or a supernatural move of God.
 - b) I say it is potential because if we do not believe we will not see. And faith is always make room for God to move. Faith is risky! Faith is an adventure!
- C. The two widows are great moms who do not have a husband anymore. They are widows because their husbands had died. When their husbands died it created a serious problem for them.
 1. Their husbands were then ones who made the money to pay for a roof over their heads, to put food on the table, and clothes on their back.
 2. Without their husbands to provide life became very scary for these moms. One mom feared death, the other mom feared her children would be taken from her and made slaves.
 3. They were great moms because they were willing to do what ever to see God

supply and their children to survive. They were willing to make room for God in their lives.

D. Two problems:

1. One widow was all out of food. She was about to make her and her son's last meal and then they would die. That is a problem. It is a problem of lack. Fear of lack.
 - a) Elijah comes into her life and gives her the word of the Lord. Here is what he says: (Who does he speak for? God) He says, "*And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.*(Problem) *For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'* "" (1 Kings 17:13-14, ESV) (Promise)
 - b) The problem is about to meet the promise and if the widow believes and obeys provision will come!
2. The second widow was in debt. Parents (DO NOT GO IN DEBT FOR CHRISTMAS!)
 - a) She is in debt and can't pay her bills and the people she owes money to are coming to take her children, her two sons. It is a problem of lack! Fear of lack. What she currently has is not enough for what she currently needs. Ever been there? I.e. Taxes are due, car broke down, Kelly broke a tooth, ...
 - b) Elisha comes and into her life, listens to her problem and asks two questions. And he redirects her focus! He directs her focus away from what she didn't have to what she did have. We have the tendency to look at what we don't have rather than what we do have. Listen: "What shall I do for you? Tell me what you have in the house." **I have nothing except:**...And he says, "Go and borrow empty vessels. Lots of them!" (Make provision! Expect something to happen!) Lack was about to be introduced to provision through a widow and her son's FAITH! I.e. Caleb learned to tithe and to give...testimony. We often want reckless provision without reckless faith!
 - c) They were making room for God to work by bringing empty vessel. Sometime we have to give God the little that we have in order for him to multiply it. I.e. John 6 - 5 loaves and two fish fed 5k men and families. What if the boys had said, we are not going to ask our neighbors for empty vessel?

III. Provision Is In Your Hand

- A. What is precious in your hand is provision in God's hand. It costs us to make room but that is where the supernatural happens!
 1. The tithe is a curse in your hand but it is a blessing in God's hand.
 2. The offering will be missed out of your hand but multiplied in God's hand.

- B. The seed only works if we get it in the ground. We have to plant! That is our offering!
That is our generosity. That is our compassion at work.
 - 1. Humility is the soil in which the Word of God grows!
 - 2. Kernel of wheat can only grow if it dies in the ground. The thing we count precious will only produce when we release it. John 12:24
- C. The widows experienced God when they trusted the Word of the Lord.
 - 1. The buffet never closed till it rained
 - 2. And the oil never ran out till every vessel was filled.

Conclusion:

- What have you got in your hand?
 - Get the curse thing out.
 - Get the seed in the ground.
 - Trust God....Trust God...