

## MOTIVES OF THE HEART

Sabbath School Bible Studies

Five Questions for Life Change

Study Texts: [Luke 16:10-11](#); [Leviticus 27:30](#);  
[Malachi 3:6-9](#); [Matthew 6:19-21](#)

### Honesty with God

#### Open

How honest are You? Invite members of your study group to answer ten quick questions with this online quiz, measuring their honesty in certain life situations:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/interactive-graphics/graphic-of-the-day/9039993/Interactive-Quiz-how-honest-are-you.html>

#### Dig

1. Read [Luke 16:10-11](#) and then discuss the following comment by William Barclay:

In [Luke 16:10-11](#) the lesson is that a man's way of fulfilling a small task is the best proof of his fitness or unfitness to be entrusted with a bigger task. That is clearly true of earthly things. No man will be advanced to higher office until he has given proof of his honesty and ability in a smaller position. But Jesus extends the principle to eternity. He says, "*Upon earth you're in charge of things which are not really yours. You cannot take them with you when you die. They are only lent to you. You are only a steward over them. They cannot be permanently yours. On the other hand, in heaven you will get what is really and eternally yours. And what you get in heaven depends on how you use the things of earth. What you will be given as your very own will depend on how you use the things of which you are only a steward.*"

To what extent do you believe that we "are in charge of things which are not ours"? While the principle Jesus shares seems common sense, can you think of leadership examples in secular life where this principle has been overlooked, resulting in disastrous consequences?

2. Read [Leviticus 27:30](#) and focus on the line: "*it is holy to the Lord.*" Tithes are holy? In what sense?

*"God asks us to give the right percentage, in the right priority, to the right person, for the right purpose, and to the right place."* (Ken Long).

Does this matter and if so, why? Why is the Lord so particular? What's the big deal, and what does it say about His character? To help answer, cross-reference to [Malachi 1:6-10](#).

3. "It's robbery", says the Lord in [Malachi 3:8](#). Read verses 6-9 for context of the conversation taking place, between the prophet and people of Israel (priests in particular). Don't be distracted by verse 10, as we intend to look at that text another time. Also, read [Psalms 106:19-23](#) as a reminder of Israel's history, how they treated God and what he didn't do. Note also, from [Malachi](#), that when the Lord asks a question of His people, they return questions, rapid fire. What attitude does this show?
4. Read [Matthew 6:19-21](#) and think about what Jesus says about "storing up treasures here on earth..., but store them in heaven." What is the link here to [Malachi 3:8-9](#)?

## Reflect

5. Look at the following list of the 'holy' below:

Sacred Conversation	-	Prayer
Sacred Funds	-	Tithe
Sacred People	-	Church
Sacred Space	-	Sanctuary
Sacred Time	-	Sabbath
Sacred Words	-	Scripture

Is it possible that living in a secular world, our understanding and respect of 'holy things' is increasingly losing its meaning, if not already lost? If so, can we see reasons why?

**To get the most out of this inductive Bible study:**

**Read the study text together (taken from the adult Sabbath School Lesson study).**

**Use question 1, as the icebreaker, an introduction to the discussion.**

**Use questions 2, 3, and 4, to dig as deep into scripture as your group wishes to go.**

**Question 5 is for reflection/application.**

**Surround the study with prayer.**