

*Treat the*  
**LORD** *Like the*  
**KING** *He Is*



BY PASTOR MARK JESKE



**TIME OF  
GRACE**  

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**MINISTRY**

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**MINISTRY**

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Direct quotations from the Bible (NIV) are printed in **bold**.

President Obama had a little trouble getting nominees for his cabinet approved. Who would have thought that one-time senate majority leader Tom Daschle would have such a hard time?

People generally like him, and he certainly is a bright guy, but it was discovered that he owed the IRS quite a bit of money in unpaid back taxes. This was a little too embarrassing, and his nomination had to be withdrawn.

The same thing happened to the man who was ultimately approved to be our Secretary of the Treasury, Tim Geithner. Throughout his confirmation hearings, a couple of pit bulls on the committee chewed on him for the fact that he had unpaid taxes. And this was all the more ironic because, as Secretary of the Treasury, one of his jobs would be supervision of the IRS.

When he was pressed about why his tax burden had not been paid, he said, “Well, it wasn’t malicious; I didn’t mean to. Frankly, I just didn’t think much about it.”

And you know, as I talk to my own kids about the way in which they manage their finances, I sometimes hear the “Geithner

Explanation” for the way in which things happen, why certain bills of theirs don’t get paid, or why they have parking tickets—“I just didn’t think about it.”

When I ask them what kind of contributions they made to the Lord out of their incomes in the past year, they’ve already said, “Well, I don’t really know. I guess I just didn’t think very much about it.” It seems to me that the “Geithner Gambit” explains a lot about how we all often think.

Half of the talk that you hear in your daily life is gas, isn’t it? It’s all just bloated, hypocritical gas. You can hardly trust anything coming out of anybody’s mouth. People are always using words to get ahead, to push you aside, to hustle you. Robocalls bring “urgent” messages and telemarketers try to upsell you. Talk is cheap. It costs you nothing to flap your lips.

Worship talk can also be cheap. And so I can’t think of a quicker way to get to the point than to quote Cuba Gooding Jr. In the movie *Jerry Maguire*, when Cuba’s character is hearing from his sports agent: “The team loves you and they want your name on a contract,” Cuba says, “Show me the money!”

It sounds crude, but we might think of God saying the same thing. “It’s not that I can’t see your heart to know where you’re at. One of the reasons I invite you to give offerings to me is so that you know whether you’re full of baloney or not. Show me the money!” We lie to ourselves constantly. We play all kinds of mind games. I’m very good at it, sad to say. I can excuse, justify, and rationalize practically anything. You just might be good at it too.

Do you know how easy it is to excuse the fact that you pull a Geithner Gambit in your offering life? I’ll show you how this works. Let’s take a little excursion through the human experience and listen to the reasons people out there give for their lack of monetary offerings:

- “I’m just a kid! Give money to the Lord? Like, God needs my buck? That’s chump change to God. Later, when I’m an adult, I’ll give out of my income.”
- “I only get \$10 a week in allowance. I’m supposed to give some of that back? I’m a teenager. Do you have any idea what it costs me to have my cell phone? That’s like \$60 a month, and that’s if I don’t have any overage charges. Later.”

- “I’m a college student! Have you any idea the debt load that I’m going to stagger out of this college with? I just can’t think of it because I have nothing to spare. Later.”
- “We just bought a house! Have you seen my credit card statements lately? I just can’t give to the Lord; there’s nothing left. I can’t do it right now. Maybe later.”
- “Do you know I’ve got three kids, and I’m a single parent? Do you know how hard it is for me to get by? I just had a string of house repairs and then my car’s transmission went out. Later.”
- “Do you know that I’m trying to start up a business. I need every nickel of my cash to plow into it. So, later. It just has to be later.”
- “Do you realize I’m low income? I’m only working part time. If the church needs to be run, it ought to be run off the wealthy people. They’ve got plenty of dough. Let them do it.”
- “I’m retired and on a fixed income. Do you know the cost of living keeps going up? I take five medications, and the cost keeps going up.”

Do you know what's wrong with all these excuses? These people (that includes you and me) are looking at life through the backward end of a telescope. Do you know about telescope inversion? Telescopes are supposed to make everything bigger and closer! When you look through a telescope from the wrong end, it makes everything look very small and very far away.

And if you look at the telescope of your prosperity and income backward, everything good in your life seems very distant and very, very small. God says, "Turn it around and use that thing the way I taught you to. Look at it my way."

Let's dig into some wonderful words from the prophet Malachi. He wrote the last book of the Old Testament in the 5th century B.C. And not only is it the last book, but Malachi was one of the very last of God's publicly identified prophets until God fell silent for four centuries or more, until the coming of John the Baptist and Christ himself.

What God chose to be his last words in the Old Testament really bears some studying. In the first chapter of Malachi, we hear one of the dialogues upon which this book is based.

Malachi is built off a series of Q & A's. Malachi conducted a sort of imaginary conversation to engage people into thinking the way that God thinks. And he had some stinging rebukes for the spiritual leadership of the people of Israel.

Here's what he said in verses 6 and 7: **“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?”** says the LORD Almighty. **‘It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. But you ask, “How have we shown contempt for your name?” You place defiled food on my altar. But you ask, “How have we defiled you?” By saying that the LORD’s table is contemptible,”** in other words, of no importance, something you can just blow off—something you don’t even think about. Does that sound familiar?

**“When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?”** says the LORD Almighty” (verse 8).

Now on the surface of it, wouldn't it make sense to bring one of the runty animals from your herd? Since the animal is going to be burned up as a sacrifice anyway, what does it matter if it's missing a leg or if it has some kind of congenital birth defect? If you're going to burn it up, doesn't it make sense to burn up something you don't really need—some of your leftovers, some of your surplus? And God says, "That insults me. Try pulling that kind of attitude on the tax collectors for your governor. Your governor wouldn't accept it. What makes you think that I am honored by the attitude that you bring?"

In the same way, when we treat God by giving him the leftovers, we are denying a truth of cosmic importance. Psalm 24:1 says, **"The earth is the LORD's and everything in it."**

God says, "The cattle on a thousand hills are mine. It's all mine. I'm just letting you use it for me. See, you think you're letting me into your game. When you become a Christian, you think now you're going to let me into the sovereign little universe that you've constructed. You think you're going to let me into your little board game." No. God opens your eyes to realize that all

along you're in *his* game—living in *his* house, driving on *his* streets, sucking in *his* air, basking in *his* sunshine, drinking *his* water, and eating *his* food. You're a guest at Hotel Earth! God owns the whole game.

Where do the skills within you to earn money come from? God put the intelligence into your brain. He put the dexterity into your fingers. He gave you opportunities that you then stepped in to use. It's all his!

When you look at the telescope that way, it all unfolds. It doesn't scrunch down and compact; it unfolds. God says, "I gave this to you, and I can give you more!"

It's like an old Doritos commercial on TV: "Crunch away, we'll make more." The point—you're not going to exhaust the earth's supply of Doritos by pounding them down. There'll be more. Relax.

God says, "I'm not going to go back on my promises to you of daily bread. I'm the owner of all; I'm also the Redeemer of all. Am I not a great King?" He sure is!

The Lord Jesus, the great King, became a humble King. God himself, in the person of

Jesus Christ, suffered and died and rose again in order to redeem you and pay off your debts. In this way, he made you all spiritual millionaires with the bank of heaven. You have credit in heaven. You may call on the great King not only to take you to heaven someday as a loved, forgiven, and redeemed human being, but he takes obligations upon himself right now to be involved in your life. He makes things happen in order to keep his promise of daily bread coming. You may not be given everything that you want, but he will guarantee that you have everything you need.

“Am I not a great King?” he asks. Yes, you are, Lord. “Then treat me like the King that I am.” In embarrassment, I’d have to admit that I’ve pulled a few Geithners in my life. I just don’t think about what a great King the Lord is. For example, do you know the thrill that you get when a gift or sudden chunk of income comes into your life? Suddenly you have a little bit of money you hadn’t planned on. Do you think the first thought to go through my head is, “Great—I’ve been wanting to do this for the Lord and now I can”? Alas, no. “Now I can get something for me!” I can be a champion selfish person.

Selfishness is an idol. I worship myself most of the time. I'm happily amazed that there are any God thoughts in my brain and in my heart at all. I'm delighted and relieved that the Holy Spirit hasn't given up on me. But my instinct is always, "What's in it for me." And you know that urge too. This is just spiritual amnesia—I just don't think of it.

A second problem is that we fear that God might not show up for work next month. Here's what God says: **"My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun . . . for I am a great king . . . and my name is to be feared among the nations"** (verses 11,14). He's not going to abandon us. That's looking through the telescope the wrong way. As we look into the future with that telescope of God, it gets bigger because of how big he is.

God is not done blessing us. When he promises daily bread, he really means it. He makes a promise in Malachi chapter 3 and invites a challenge. Normally, we're not supposed to test God, but he says here, "I'm going to set up a test for you." In one of his Q & A's with Malachi he says, **"Will a man**

**rob God?”** He says, “You’re robbing me in tithes and offerings. The whole nation of you is robbing me.” **“Test me in this,”** he says, **“and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it”** (verses 8-10).

Does God live in your future? Yes. Use the telescope properly. The future’s even bigger than it is now, for he is living in your future.

He claims that he can take away trouble from us. **“I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit”** (verse 11), meaning, dropping prematurely so it can’t be harvested. “I can stop your car from breaking down this year. I can keep your transmission patched up for another 8, 10, 12 months. I can keep that cancer from spreading in your body or from touching you in the first place. I can keep your roof from leaking. I’ll provide the support you need for 12 more months if you’re going to go through a tough stretch. I can do that.”

**“Then all nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land”** (verse 12). Others will see cause and

effect. Those who trust in the Lord just do better. They aren't always rich, but things happen for them, and their daily bread keeps coming. They are okay because God lives in the future and will arrange things to become a blessing.

A little while ago, I got a sense of this when I was in Phoenix and saw the great Salt River. If you take a look at the Salt River, you will see almost nothing. It is what they call a wash, or arroyo. It's completely dry. It's just stones and rocks in what looks like it could be a riverbed. That's all it is. Except during what Arizonans call monsoon time. They get a lot of rain all at once in July or August. Suddenly these dry washes explode with water.

Get this—God Almighty says that he's got his hand on the faucet of blessing that is pointed toward you. What do you think of that? And he says, "Honor me like the great King that I am, and I will open her up to see that you have what you need in the future. Don't panic. I am still the Lord of all." God has been taking good care of us. It's our nerves that fail sometimes.

Keep your eyes open and watch for that flood of blessings because they will be there, for the Lord your God lives in your future and loves you unconditionally. For example, God will send people to help you, walk with you, and do things for you. Through the forgiving love of Jesus Christ, he has not given up on us, even when we sometimes have given up on him and insulted him with being cheapskates and coming up with excuses why he has no claim on our money.

I know this is a hard time economically for our country. I think this is a test case for America. I think God sometimes allows financial hardship to come upon us—employment hardship, savings hardship, cash flow hardship—because it's a wakeup call. Some of America's financial troubles are our own stupid fault, and there are some things internally as a country that we do that make no business sense and are just stupid and selfish. We need a national spanking. I think it's also a test for us as individuals: Do we really believe that God has his hand on the faucet? Or is that all gassy talk?

Are you for real about this faith, or do you just pretend to be a Christian? Are you authentic or a poser? I'll put it to you to think about that. And I will invite and challenge every last one of you to worship the Lord, not only with your praises and your service, but today I make bold to talk to you about the money. I want you to have a healthy, proper telescope attitude toward the might and power of your God to bless you faster than you can give to him, and he will outgive you every time. God shovels back into your life when you shovel into his, but he's got a way bigger shovel, and he, after all, owns the game that we get to live in.





## STRAIGHT TALK. REAL HOPE.

“Go . . . and teach all nations.” This command from a resurrected Jesus Christ to his disciples over 2,000 years ago is the driving force behind Time of Grace, a multimedia, Christian outreach ministry dedicated to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people, especially those who have not heard it. Founded in May of 2001, Time of Grace primarily uses television to share the gospel with people across the country in an expanding number of markets. (See complete list on the following pages.)

Originating from St. Marcus Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Time of Grace broadcasts a half-hour program each week featuring Pastor Mark Jeske. He presents Bible studies in terms that people can relate to and apply to their personal lives.

We hope you will watch *Time of Grace* if it is broadcast in your area. Or—visit our website at [www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org) where you will find recent messages of Pastor Jeske. We have a variety of booklets, DVDs, or videos available. You also can contact us at **1-800-661-3311**.

God’s Blessings!

# BROADCAST SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY, 5:00PM CT**

**Daystar DirectTV Ch. 369 | Dish Network Ch. 263**

For a station in your area visit [timeofgrace.org](http://timeofgrace.org) and click on the Daystar logo.

**SUNDAY, 2:00PM CT NRB DirectTV Ch. 378**

## ARIZONA

### PHOENIX

KPHO CBS, Ch. 5

Sunday at 7:00am MT

## ARKANSAS

### BELLA VISTA

Bella Vista Cable, Ch. 16

Sunday at 8:00am CT

## FLORIDA

### GAINESVILLE

WACX, Ch. 69

Sunday at 5:30pm ET

### TALLAHASSEE

WACX, Ch. 9

Sunday at 5:30pm ET

### ORLANDO

WACX, Ch. 55

Sunday at 5:30pm ET

## INDIANA

### SOUTH BEND

WHME Le Sea, Ch. 46

Sunday at 10:30am

## KANSAS

### GREAT BEND/HAYS

KBDK FOX, Ch. 14

Sunday at 7:00am CT

### WICHITA

KSAS FOX, Ch. 24

Sunday at 7:00am CT

### SALINA

KAAS FOX, Ch. 18

Sunday at 7:00am CT

## MICHIGAN

### FLINT

WSMH FOX, Ch. 66

Sunday at 7:00am ET

### ST. JOSEPH/BENTON HARBOR

WHME Le Sea, Ch. 46

Sunday at 10:30am

### MARQUETTE

WBUP, Ch. 5/10

Sunday at 7:30am ET

## MINNESOTA

### MINNEAPOLIS

KMSP FOX, Ch. 9

Sunday at 6:30am CT

### NEW ULM

New Ulm Telcom Cable, Ch. 3

Sunday at 10:00am and 7:00pm CT

Comcast Cable, Ch. 14

Sunday at 10:00am and 7:00pm CT

# BROADCAST SCHEDULE *continued*

## MISSOURI

### ST. LOUIS

KDNL-ABC, Ch. 30

Sunday at 9:00am CT

## MONTANA

### MISSOULA

Community Access, Ch. 7

Tuesday at 6:30pm MT

Sunday at 10:30am MT

## NORTH CAROLINA

### ASHEVILLE

Charter Cable URTV, Ch. 20

Sunday at 8:30am ET

## WASHINGTON, DC

WJLA ABC, Ch. 7

Sunday at 7:30am ET

## WISCONSIN

### BARABOO

WRPQ, Ch. 43

Sunday at 8:00 CT

### GREEN BAY

WGBA NBC, Ch. 26

Sunday at 6:30am CT

WACY, Ch. 32

Sunday at 7:30am CT

### LA CROSSE

WKBT CBS, Ch. 8

Sunday at 7:00am CT

### MADISON

WMSN FOX, Ch. 47

Sunday at 7:00am CT

WBUW-CW, Ch. 57

Sunday at 8:30am CT

### MILWAUKEE

WITI FOX, Ch. 6

Sunday at 7:30am CT

### WAUSAU

WSAW CBS, Ch. 7

Sunday at 7:30am CT

### WISCONSIN RAPIDS

Solarus Cable, Ch. 985

Sunday at 12:00pm CT

## INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

### ANTIGUA/BARBUDA

ABS Antigua Broadcasting Station

Sunday at 5:30pm

### GRENADA, WEST INDIES

GBN Television

Sunday at 6:30pm

### AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK

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