	Return to Me: Lordship = Returning
 **BIG IDEA**	God honors those who honor Him, and we honor Him best by trusting and obeying. Giving the first and the best back to God is not a loss, it is an act of trust in a God who keeps His promises and invites us to test Him in this. Tithing is an expression of gratitude and obedience, and it is the starting point of true generosity.
 **ICE BREAKER**	1. What is something you used to believe as a kid that you no longer do? 2. Have you ever taken a risk on a promise from someone you trusted? What happened? 3. What is a conviction you hold so deeply that nothing could talk you out of it?
 **MAIN POINTS**	Would you trust the promise and prime the pump? Pastor Cal began with a story: stranded in the Arizona desert, you find a pump and a jug of water with a note that says to pour the entire jug into the pump, because the well has never gone dry and you will have more water than you can imagine. It is risky to surrender what you do have for what you might have. The question is whether you trust the message, and what difference it would make if you knew the person who wrote the note. God is that kind of promise-keeper, and He is inviting us to trust Him with what we have. Beliefs change, but convictions hold you. A belief is an idea you hold to be true, and beliefs change over time through knowledge, circumstances, and experience. A conviction is a belief that has taken hold of you: you hold your beliefs, but your convictions hold you. Pastor Cal shared three convictions that shape his giving: that God exists and we will all give an account (Romans 14:11-12), that our first and best must always be dedicated to God (Exodus 23:19, Numbers 18:29), and that God honors those who honor Him: "Those who honor me I will honor" (1 Samuel 2:30). To honor God means to be faithful, obedient, and to take Him at His word, and to be honored by God means to have His hand of favor on your life. Tithing is gratitude and obedience, and generosity starts there. A tithe is simply a tenth, and it is first mentioned when Abram gave "a tenth of everything" in gratitude (Genesis 14:17-20). Tithing is about putting God before ourselves, and it does not depend on how much we make: the first dime of ten, or the first tenth of any paycheck, belongs to God. Pastor Cal noted that the more we are given, the more tempted we are to get greedy instead of grateful (Deuteronomy 8:11-18). Tithes are about obedience and go to God, while offerings are about generosity and go where we decide. He also said that if we give away what does not belong to us to give, like someone handing out the contents of a wallet they found, it is not true generosity, and we risk taking praise that belongs to God. God honors those who honor Him, so return to Him. Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the whole

	tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven." It is the only place in Scripture where God invites us to test Him, and it is like the note on the pump: trust Me and pour the water down. Pastor Cal asked whether we have been taking credit for blessings God has actually given, such as our work, our family, and our health, while pointing out that the absence of those things does not mean God is against us. He shared a simple money plan: the first 10% goes to God, the second 10% to saving, and the remaining 80% is for living and being generous. God's word in Malachi is simple: "Return to me, and I will return to you" (Malachi 3:7). We honor Him by trusting Him to keep His promises and obeying what He has asked.
DISCUSS	1. What is the difference between a belief and a conviction? Which convictions "hold" you? 2. In the pump story, what would make it easier to trust the note? How does knowing the author change things? 3. What does it mean to honor God, and why do you think we honor Him best by trusting and obeying? 4. Pastor Cal said tithing is gratitude and obedience, while offerings are generosity. How does that change the way you think about giving?
NEXT STEP	Jesus First: Read Malachi 3:6-12 this week and ask God, "Where do You want me to return?" Thank Him for specific blessings you may have been crediting to yourself. People Always: Talk with your spouse or your Group about a simple plan for your money, such as giving the first 10% to God, saving 10%, and living and being generous with the rest. Encourage each other to follow through. Made for More: Put God first by giving the first tenth of your income on payday. If you are not there yet, take a step toward it this month, and take Pastor Cal's challenge to trust God and "pour the water into the pump."
SCRIPTURE	Malachi 3:6-12 1 Samuel 2:30 Romans 14:11-12 Genesis 14:17-20 Deuteronomy 8:11-18
NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25th at 6:00 p.m. at every campus. For the Mesa Campus, this will be a sneak peek in their new auditorium. Bring a friend, and Happy Thanksgiving! Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com