

WILL A MAN ROB GOD

MALACHI 3

Text:

Introduction:

The question is asked in Malachi chapter 3, “Will a man rob God?” I could understand a “yes” answer to this question if it was being asked to a lost man, but I cannot understand why a saved man would even think about robbing God.

There are a lot of good people who would never ever think of robbing or stealing one cent from someone else, but are guilty of stealing from God.

The Bible says that such a person is cursed with a curse.

Notice:

1. THE PEOPLE'S REBUKE FOR NOT GIVING (VS. 6-9)

The law had a sophisticated system of giving that was based on the tithe (10%); but tithing predated the law (Genesis 14:18-20).

Genesis 14:18-20

¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God. ¹⁹ And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²⁰ And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Contrary to what many believe, the tithe continued after the law on into the New Testament as these verses clearly show:

Matthew 23:23

²³ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Luke 11:42

⁴² But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Our text shows us that when the people failed to give God the entire tithe, they were in fact robbing Him. The giving of the tithe was a way of acknowledging that

God owns everything; if you failed to pay your tithe, you were assessed a 20% penalty.

Leviticus 5:14-16

¹⁴ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹⁵ If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks, with thy estimation by shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for a trespass offering: ¹⁶ And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.

Leviticus 22:14

¹⁴ And if a man eat *of* the holy thing unwittingly, then he shall put the fifth *part* thereof unto it, and shall give *it* unto the priest with the holy thing.

Leviticus 27:31-32

³¹ And if a man will at all redeem *ought* of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth *part* thereof. ³² And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

God wanted His people to have an awareness of the severity of robbing God. The very fact that God uses the very strong word “rob” shows just how serious that it is to withhold the tithes and the offerings from the Lord.

A. The People Were Rebuked For Their Failure In Giving (vs. 6-8)

Malachi 3:6-8

⁶For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. ⁷Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? ⁸Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

When people do not give, there is a failure. It is a failure involving ones faith, and it is also a failure that involves fear.

2 Corinthians 8:1-3

¹Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; ²How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. ³For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves;

B. The People Were Rebuked For Their Faithlessness in Giving (vs. 10)

Malachi 3:10

¹⁰Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

When giving is exercised with the proper motive, the giver is demonstrating his confidence in the Word of God. A person that believes the Bible to be the very

Word of God will demonstrate it in a very practical way, and will also prove his love for the Lord as he gives.

The nation of Israel had gone away, in unbelief from the ordinances of God, and God is seen in our text challenging them to return to Him and “prove” Him, as to His faithfulness, by their giving the tithes and the offerings.

C. The People Were Rebuked For Their Fruitlessness in Giving (vs. 11)

Malachi 3:11

¹¹ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

There is a giving principle found in II Corinthians 9:6-8 that shows how God gives when we give. He likens our giving to a farmer planting his seeds. This passage of Scripture also shows the way God wants us to give. He wants us to give cheerfully, with a thankful heart.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶ But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

When unselfish giving is not taking place, then God is not pleased. God may give you a wonderful job with many benefits, but if you selfishly hold on to what He has blessed you with, He may let the devourer of your crops take the blessings away.

2. THE PROMISED RESULTS OF ONES GIVING (vs. 10-12)

The Lord is showing what will happen if they would come back to Him. We can compare all of this to the local church. In doing so, we can show the blessings of obeying God, and trusting Him as well.

To trust Him and to obey Him is the only way to enjoy the good results of the Lord.

Note some real blessings that come from obeying Him and trusting Him:

A. There Will Be Provisions for the Work of the Lord (vs. 10 a)

Malachi 3:10

¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

When faithful giving is taking place, the work of the Lord can continue to operate allowing the stewardship of giving to function as God intended.

Good, faithful giving ensures that we have the provisions to do the work that God has given us to do.

**B. There Will Be Prosperity from the Lord
(vs. 10 b)**

Malachi 3:10

¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

God is not stingy; He is the great giver. Everything that we enjoy within the realm of creation, He gave. He gave His only begotten Son. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

James 1:17

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

C. There Will Be Protection from the Lord
(vs. 11)

Malachi 3:11

¹¹ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

This is a great verse of promise that gives comfort to the believer. Just knowing that you will have the protective blessings of God upon you as you give, should make you give with more boldness

D. There Will Be Praises for Obeying the Lord
(vs. 12)

Malachi 3:12

¹² And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

When it is obvious that you have the blessings of the Lord upon you, people will know it. It will be a part of your testimony. Likewise, when God's blessings are missing, people will also notice it. When people fail to give, there develops blight upon the church.

Close:

There was a blessing, and there was a curse in our lesson today. May we be faithful in our giving.