
MALACHI- LESSON # 14

Mal 3:8 *"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.*

THE SIXTH QUESTION: How have we robbed you?

- **HOW DO YOU ROB GOD IN TITHES?**
- Not presenting 10% to God; or not considering all you have when you calculate it.
- **HOW DO YOU ROB IN OFFERINGS?**
- By withholding that which you have vowed to God.

Mal 3:9 *"You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!*

- **Why are they cursed?** They are robbing God, and so God is working against them.
- The problem is not in what they give; but what they keep- it does not belong to them.

Mal 3:10 *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.*

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse

- "Storehouse" = treasury, the collection
- *Bring the whole tithe:* not part of it, bring it all- do not withhold
- Time, Service, Talents: can't bring those things into the collection/treasury

Notice: God is only asking for the tithe here

- The tithe is the bare minimum
- What is promised, what is the result of bringing God the "bare minimum"?
 - o Abundant Blessings!

"Test me on this now"

- Only time where God's principal is: Test me on this and see what happens
- God is saying: Do what is right, and watch me respond
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Mal 3:11 *"Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.*

What is the devourer? Things that destroy crops

- Man's labor is in vain: problem is not work ethic or agricultural practices
- The problem is: God is working against them instead of form them

God is promising to physically get involved in the affairs of their lives:

- Does God get involved in the physical affairs of our lives?
 - o **Matthew 6:25-34** - Are these things physical or spiritual? Things in heaven, or things He will take care of right now while we are on earth?
- They have seen what it is like when God is not blessing them; God is asking them to do the right thing and see the difference.

Mal 3:12 "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

Why will all the nations call them blessed?

- Because the nations will see a people who give God the first/best, and they will see God bless and take care of this people.

Is it important that people see us and can tell that God is taking care of us?

- We prove what the will of God is; by living according to God's will and God blessing us for it (**Romans 12:2**)
- People need to see that God is the difference maker in our lives.

Mal 3:13 "Your words have been arrogant against Me," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?'"

THE SEVENTH QUESTION: What have we spoken against You?

- God accuses the people of speaking harshly against him- and they say "how?"
 - o The word "arrogant" here means sever, fierce. It is used in **Jude 1:15**
 - o What comes out of the mouth; originates in the heart.

Mal 3:14 "You have said, 'It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?'"

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT IN SERVING GOD? WHAT PROFIT IN BEING FAITHFUL?

- The people are saying that it is useless and of no profit.
- Why do they feel this way?
 - o God is not currently blessing them because they are unfaithful
 - o However- they are blind to their own spiritual condition; they have convinced themselves that they are serving God and keeping His charge.

Walking as mourners (Amos 5:16)

- It was a Jewish custom to have paid mourners- people you paid to cry when you died. These hired mourners were expected to be very excessive in their lamenting and would walk in the procession from the home of the deceased to the burial plot. The longer processions and the extravagant mourning would show everyone how important you were. It is apparently still a thing today:

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Job Title: Professional Mourner aka Mournologists

Office: Funerals and Wakes

Description: Attend funerals to mourn the deceased

Certifications/Education: None required

Necessary Skills: Discretion, Professionalism, Acting skills, Outgoing

Potential Employers: Funeral Homes, Freelance, Rental Companies

Pay: \$30 to \$120 per funeral

WALKING AS MOURNERS

- God is comparing His people here to these paid mourners
- Their crying about serving Him is just a show, and he can see through it.

Who walks in mourning before the Lord?

- Rich young ruler - Guys on road to Emmaus
- Ones who mourn: are those who know what to do- refuse to do it
- Those who repent and change: they walk before the Lord Rejoicing:
 - o Zaccheus, Ethiopian Eunuch, etc.

Mal 3:15 'So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.'"

Why does it seem that the arrogant are blessed & the wicked are built up?

- Because that is what corruption does in any situation
 - o The humble/righteous are ran off and silenced
 - o The proud/wicked are elevated to places where they profit and lead.

Arrogant/proud are blessed- doers of wickedness are built up—why?

- Because that is what corruption does: family, church, business, city, government
- When people depart from the Lord- this is what happens
 - o Humble/Holy are oppressed and run off
 - o Proud/Wicked are elevated to places where they profit and lead

Will the doers of wickedness really escape? 2 Peter 2:9

- ***2Pe 2:9*** then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

Those who feared the Lord spoke to one another

- Good news: if people are doing wrong, you don't have to be a part of it
- ***Jude 1:19-20-*** some are more interested in tearing down than building up
- Every Christian has to decide which side they are going to be on

The Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written..

- Who was it written for? For those who fear the Lord
- God notices the faithful among the faithless
 - o He will remember: they were not the problem

Mal 3:17 "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."

They will be mine...what should the Israelites be hearing when God says that?

- They are not His now!
- The profit in what they are doing now is not in the temple worship/law
- The profit is in what the temple worship is preparing them for
 - o It was supposed to prepare them to be His own

My own Possession= "treasure"

- This is what God has been working toward since ***Exodus 19:5***
- We can read the fulfillment in ***1 Peter 2:9***

I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him

- He told the Priests that judgment was coming
- Who is He going to be spared? Those who fear Him, those who serve Him

Mal 3:18 So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

- **God will make a difference; a choice, a discernment.**
 - o Now he tells the people to see the difference.
 - o You will distinguish between those who serve God, and those who do not.
- Telling the people: The priesthood may be wrong, but you can still do the right thing