

Principles Of Stewardship: Part 5
“When God Is Robbed”
Malachi 3:7-12
Sunday, July 14, 2024

Malachi 3:7-12

From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

The general, overarching problem that the Israelites have is that they are rebellious.

The first specific rebellion is that the ministers are corrupt.

Malachi 2:7-9

For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. ⁸But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, ⁹and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

The second specific rebellion is that The institution of Marriage is ‘crumbling’ in their midst.

Malachi 2:11-14

Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹²May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts! ¹³And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

The third specific rebellion, which we are concerned with today, They are robbing God.

Malachi 3:8

The people were neglecting the tithes and offerings. And God says, ‘You’re robbing me.’ Therefore...

Malachi 3:9

Transition: Perspective on ‘Why they were rebelling...’

Malachi 3:13-15

“Your words have been hard against me (not very reverent), says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

They didn’t think their faith worked.

They didn’t believe God really loved them.

Malachi 1:2

“I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?”

They didn’t have a proper view of God.

Malachi 3:6

“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

God’s Response... (says 3 things)

- **(Verse 10a) Obey. (Full Tithe... Surrender to Him—He’s the Lord.)**
- **(10b,11) Test God. (It’s okay to test the strength...)**
- **(Verse 12) It leads to the fulfilling of the Great Commission.**