

Series: Wake-up Call
Passage: Malachi 3:6-12
Sunday: November 19, 2023

Malachi 3:6-15 (ESV)

Robbing God

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From 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 tithe 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.

¹³“Your words have been hard against me, 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.’ ”

1. Describe a time when something was shared with you out of generosity that you believed was simply too good to be true. How did it turn out?

2. Verse 6 says that God does not change. What does this verse reveal about God’s character? Where in your life do you witness God’s unchanging character?

3. In what way are the Israelites robbing God? How might their circumstances have tempted them to do so? What does this teach us about how we should view our own wealth and resources?

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4. What discipline does Israel receive for withholding their tithes (verse 9), and what does God promise if Israel will return to him in faith and obedience (verses 8-12)?
5. Why is it difficult for us to give? How is not giving a sin?
6. How is the Israelite's lack of generosity towards God merely a symptom of their unbelief in God and His promises? How do you see this playing out in different areas of life? (i.e. finances, time, etc.)
7. How is this passage a wake-up call for you?