

WHERE IS YOUR HEART? ~ Malachi 3:7-12

→ Scripture Reading - Malachi 3:7-10 NLT

YOU ARE ROBBING GOD ~ Malachi 3:7-9

[7] Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

Wrong Steps

- turned AWAY from God
- refused to OBEY His Word

[8] "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. [9] You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me.

APPLICATION

GIVING NEEDS TO BE... (Piper)

- **Thoughtful, Heartfelt, Not Reluctant**
2 Cor. 9:7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- **Generous, Joyful, and Sacrificial**
2 Cor. 8:2-4 (NLT)...being tested by many troubles, and **they are very poor**. But they are also **filled with abundant joy**, which has **overflowed in rich GENEROSITY**. [3] For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. [4] They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing
- **One of our Goals in for Working**
Eph. 4:28 (NIV) He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

TEST GOD AND SEE ~ Malachi 3:10-12

[10] Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. [11] I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. [12] "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

APPLICATION

Deuteronomy 30:1-3 (NIV) When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the Lord your God disperses you among the nations, [2] and **when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul** according to everything I command you today, [3] **THEN** the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (NIV) [1] And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. [2] Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. [3] For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, [4] they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

The Macedonian Churches...

- Severe TRIAL
- Extreme POVERTY
- Overflowing of JOY
- Rich GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV) But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - **see that you also excel in this grace of giving.**

TAKE AWAY ??

The issue in Malachi 3:7-12 is NOT tithing but apostasy. ...By retaining for themselves the tithes and other offerings they owed to God, the people showed their idolatrous hearts in placing themselves before God... - Clendenen

Galatians 6:7 (NIV) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Hosea 10:12 (NLT) I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'