**ROBBING OURSELVES BY ROBBING GOD**

Malachi 3:8-12

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**INTRODUCTION**

We have seen that Malachi has delivered God’s message to the people that they have wearied God by praising those who do evil as if they were good people. Also, they have wearied God by saying “harsh things” against God. God encouraged the faithful so that they might continue to be faithful regardless of what others were saying and doing. Today, we see Malachi presenting another message to the people of God. This message is to those who are turning away from faithfulness to God. God tells the unfaithful that they are simply cheating themselves out of receiving His blessings. In other words, by robbing God, they are robbing themselves.

1. **THE UNFAITHFUL ARE ROBBING GOD (vv. 8-9).**
2. The **Rebuke**: “Will a man rob God?”
3. The **Response**: “How do we rob you?”
4. The **Reply**: “In tithes and offerings.”
5. The **Result**: “You are under a curse…because you are robbing me.”
6. The **Reality**: Are you also robbing God and under a curse?

*Do you rob God of that which is rightly His? Do you rob Him by not giving your tithes and offerings—your treasures? Do you rob Him by not giving Him your talents? Do you rob God by not giving Him your time? We may be guilty of robbing God in several ways, all of which are the direct results of our not following God’s will for our lives.*

1. **THE UNFAITHFUL ARE ALSO ROBBING THEMSELVES (vv. 10-12).**
2. We rob ourselves of the **blessings** of God when we rob Him.
3. We rob ourselves of having **confidence** in God when we rob Him (“Test me”).
4. We rob ourselves of a fruitful **harvest** when we rob God.
5. We rob ourselves of being called **blessed** by other nations.
6. We rob ourselves of living in an enviable, glorious **homeland** (“a delightful land”).

*Those who choose to rob God by not giving their tithes and offerings actually end up robbing themselves. We think we are getting away with it when we do not give back to Him a portion of what He has entrusted to us. However, we are just cheating ourselves! God can get by without our tithes and offerings! The church can get by without our tithes and offerings! However, we are the ones who lose when we do not give!*

**CONCLUSION**

Malachi is the last prophetic book and the last book of the Old Testament. It is God’s last recorded word to His people before the coming of Messiah about 400 years later. The last chapter warns of the coming Day of the Lord, a day of ferocious judgment of the wicked and all who forsake God. Here, in this next-to-last chapter, he reminds us of the importance of not robbing ourselves by robbing God. He describes the blessings that result from being obedient to God. However, he also reminds us that we bring a curse upon ourselves if we are unfaithful in this matter. Which do you prefer to bring into your life: the blessings of God or the curse of God? Fortunately, it is a matter of our own choice!

*“Purify my heart; let me be as gold and precious silver.*

*Purify my heart; let me be as gold, pure gold!*

*Refiner’s fire, my heart’s one desire is to be holy, set apart for You, Lord.*

*I choose to be holy, set apart for You, my Master,*

*Ready to do Your will, ready to do Your will.”*