

**MALACHI #6**  
**7 questions of a backslider**  
**HOW HAVE I ROBBED GOD?**

Malachi 3<sup>8</sup> “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.  
“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’  
“In tithes and offerings.<sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—the whole nation  
of you—because you are robbing me.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring  
your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,”  
says the Lord Almighty.<sup>12</sup> “Then all the nations will call you  
blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord  
Almighty. NIV

Intro: There is one subject the carnal mind is really offended by.  
It is not preaching against “sin”, “hell”, “the return of Christ”, but  
money!

**More people worship money than any other idol.**

Perhaps this is why Jesus spoke about stewardship or money issues  
17 out of 36 parables.

He knows there is no other thing in life that touches every area of  
our life more than money except God.

Money can be used for good or evil.

One of the first indicators that a person is backsliding is they begin  
to withhold their tithe. (Supt. Garrison)

What is Israel’s problem?

**I. CIRRHOSIS OF THE GIVER!** V 8,9

### A. Called to account

1. Israel is stealing from God
2. They denied it, yet they were angry at God because he was not blessing them.
3. **Why does God expect us to tithe?**
  - \* It shows submission to God's ownership
  - \* It makes us realize that all we have comes from His hand, not our own cleverness or skills.
  - \* It prevents us from worshipping things.
  - \* When we learn to give our material things it is much easier to give our spiritual things to God, like our soul.

### B. Curse Activated v 9

1. Deut. chapters 27 and 28 pronounce blessings on those who obey the law and curses on those who violate them.
2. We blame God too often when in all reality our troubles have taken root from the kind of life we live.
3. We gain nothing from God by holding back on Him. We will always lose if we do.

## II. THE CHALLENGE THAT BREAKS THE CURSE.

<sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty,

The curse is broken when we....

### A. "Bring the whole tithe"

1. It is not **missions** money
2. It is not **alms** for the poor
3. **Giving does not occur until it exceeds the tithe.**  
The "tithe" is the Lord's.

Inheritance, the profit of a sale, bonuses on jobs, etc. When you receive the increase, tithe on it!

### **B. Test God- v 10 “test me in this”**

1. It is the only time we are to test God.
2. Tithing is really an **issue of trust**, not in money but God.

Who can we trust more than God?

- III. A church member was having trouble tithing.

“Pastor, I just don’t see how I can give 10 percent of my income to the church when I can’t even keep on top of our bills.”

The pastor replied, “John, if I promise to make up the difference in your bills if you should fall short, do you think you could try tithing for one month?” John said, “Sure, if you promise to make up any shortage, I guess I could try tithing for one month.”

The pastor responded, “ You say you would be willing if to put your trust in a mere man like myself who possesses so little materially, but you couldn’t trust your Heavenly Father who owns the whole universe!” The next month John tithed and has not stopped in years.

3. It is ironic that **those who have more tend to have less trust in God** than in their money while **those who have little have great trust in God.**

III. The widow gave 2 mites, all she had.

The rich young ruler when ask to give all went away sorrowfully.

4. **They wanted God to bless First**, then they might give. Faith gives first and then trust God for the rest.

### **III. THE CHALLENGE BECOMES A COVENANT WITNESS.**

“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. <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the Lord Almighty. <sup>12</sup> “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty. NIV

**A. God will bring overflowing blessings.**

You will not have room enough for it.- it is to share with others.

**B. God will protect your productivity.**

To them it was insects devouring crops and fruit of the vine would drop its fruit before harvesting.

To us it represents everything that we are working at will be blessed and kept.

Psalms 1 <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the Lord , and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

**C. Nations will recognize that you have been blessed.**

Not only nations but other people will declare and confess that God has blessed you!