

Home Group Notes
Week of September 17, 2023
Malachi 3:6-12



This week is different. This passage of Scripture (1) repeats a theme and critical practice found throughout the Bible that is essential for us to understand, (2) it is a bridge of both the Old and New Testament about who God is and what He expects of us, and (3) it is the only place where God says that we are robbing Him. Therefore, our study this week is a longer, but rich. Let's dig in. (I highly recommend that you also listen to the message given by Doug Baker on September 17.)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES FOR GOD'S TRUTH

Read Malachi 3:6-12. This is a conversation with God about ownership.

According to verse six, why are the "children of Jacob" not consumed? (See also Exodus 34:6) What do we know about the character of God and why they (and we) were not consumed for their actions?

What does God accuse them of doing? (7-9)

What does God command them to do? (10)

What does God promise that He will do? (10-11)

What would result from their obedience and God's blessing? (12)

Throughout the Bible, there is a repeated statement regarding possessions. Read the following verses and write a summary below:

Deuteronomy 18:17-18

Psalm 24:1

Psalm 104:24

Ezra 9:7

1 Corinthians 10:26

James 1:17

Summary: _____

Why is this statement so critical for us today? What happens when we don't get this right? (Malachi 3:8-9)

In previous statements in Malachi, God called out many other sins and errors of the people. These were concerning priests, marriage, and other violations of their covenant. Why is this sin (8-10) so important to God?

What happened because they failed to provide their tithes? (See Nehemiah 13:10-12)

The Levites oversaw the house of God, their center of worship. The tithes were their income so that the house of God could thrive. What all was affected when they could no longer perform their function?

Having read these Scriptures, why would God say, "You are robbing me?" How were they stealing from God?

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO OUR LIVES?

Jesus had much to say about our stewardship of what God gives us. In Luke 16, He said, "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much." Throughout Scripture, God teaches us that, "Our use of money is God's test of whether he can entrust souls to our care." (*Sermon: Malachi 3:7-12 Robbing God.*) Pastor Steven Cole has written, "Giving is one of the most fail-proof litmus tests of our relationship to God. On more than one occasion, Jesus linked a person's giving to eternal life." Here are four questions for each of us to consider:

- 1) Do I believe that God owns everything? Do I understand that everything I am and have is from Him and that I am His steward? (Malachi 3:7-9)
- 2) Does my giving / tithing match what God has revealed in Scripture and is following the lead of the Holy Spirit? Is God pleased? (Malachi 3:10)
- 3) Do I believe and trust in God's promises that He will provide all that is needed for our lives and even encourages us to test Him in this? Am I taking God at His word about this? (Malachi 3:10-11)
- 4) Do I understand that God's reputation, worship, mission, and much more is connected with my faithful generosity? (Malachi 3:12)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Why do you think that God states so forcefully, "You are robbing me?"

What all is affected by our tithes and offerings?

What do you think and feel about the statement, "God owns everything."

Do you believe it is true that we can be owned by the things we own?

PRAYER NEEDS

- Please pray for the many people in need in our church family. In addition to the list from last week, Sam and Abby Anaya discovered that their 21 month daughter, Amani, has leukemia.
- Please pray for the unity and fellowship of Christ-followers in our community as we follow Jesus together
- Please pray for our fellowship as we continue to make disciples and love God and His family at Trinity Church