

ROBBING GOD?

Malachi 3:8-12

INTRODUCTION

- A. Traveling a long distance to visit relatives.
 - 1. The first part of the journey – peace because of expectations.
 - 2. As the trip wears on – unrest!
 - 3. “Are we there, yet!”
- B. Return from Babylon.
 - 1. It has been 70 years from the time the Jews were taken into exile.
 - 2. Ezra and Nehemiah chronicle the return from Babylon.
 - 3. Their work was spurred on by Haggai and Zechariah.
- C. The Preaching of Malachi.
 - 1. Approx. 100 years from the time the people were released to return home.
 - 2. They were tired of the wait for the “Messiah”.
 - 3. The people had fallen back into the “same ways” before exile into Babylon.
- D. Two Thousand Years and Still Waiting!
 - 1. Perhaps we find ourselves in the same mindset.
 - 2. Christ promised His return, but here we sit – and wait!
 - 3. We may think our worship to the Lord has become mundane – boring.
 - 4. There are so many things that vie for our attention.
 - 5. The need to remind us of the commitment we made to the Lord.

I. WE “ROB GOD” BY DISHONORING HIM. 1:6-14

- A. Their Sin.
 - 1. The Jews were robbing God by giving polluted sacrifices.
 - a. Defiled food, 1:7.
 - b. The “blind,” lame,” and “sick”, 1:8, 13-14.
 - c. Animals given which were “good for nothing”.
 - 2. Giving polluted sacrifices showed how they “despised” the Lord, 1:6-7, 12.
 - 3. It would be better not to even make sacrifices, because the Lord did not accept these, 1:10, 13.
 - 4. The priests participated in the sin, by accepting the “polluted sacrifices”, 1:6.
- B. Our Sin.
 - 1. We can also rob God, by not giving of our best in worship.
 - a. Inferior sacrifice and praise, Heb. 13:15.
 - b. Prepared to come and worship God – alert and participating.
 - 2. Romans 12:1, our bodies a living and holy sacrifice.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 – our bodies are joined to the Lord!

II. WE “ROB GOD” BY FAILING TO TEACH HIS LAW. 2:1-9

- A. Their Sin.
 - 1. The priests were failing to teach the law to the people.
 - 2. Malachi’s warnings: God had already cursed them and would further cause them to be shamed and despised, 2:2-3.
 - 3. The role of God’s priesthood [Levites] remembered:
 - a. Revere God and stand in awe, 2:5.
 - b. Walk in peace and uprightness and turn many back from their iniquity, 2:6.
 - c. Preserve knowledge so the people would seek instruction from his mouth – he was God’s messenger, 2:7.
 - 4. The worst part of their sin? They were causing others to stumble from the truth.

- B. Our Sin.
 1. We are the chosen priesthood of God, 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.
 2. We have the responsibility to teach, Matt. 28:18-20.
 3. We must teach the Word correctly, Gal. 1:8-9.
 4. When we portray anything other than the truth of God's Word, we cause others to stumble.

III. WE "ROB GOD" BY BREAKING COVENANTS. 2:10-16

- A. Their Sin.
 1. They were dealing "treacherously" with others:
 - a. Treacherously "against his brother," 2:10.
 - b. Treacherously with God's sanctuary—"marrying daughters of foreigners," 2:11.
 - i. Implying that their worship was unacceptable because of their wicked dealings with their wives.
 - c. Treacherously with wives of "their youth," 2:14-15.
 - d. They were doing what God hates [divorce], 2:16.
 2. God commanded, "*Do not deal treacherously*," 2:16.
- B. Our Sin.
 1. The problem of divorce running rampant in the church today.
 2. Becoming too common is the marriage to unbelievers.
 3. The need for Christians to marry faithful Christians, 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
 4. The need to work hard at keeping our marriages strong – "in the Lord."

IV. WE "ROB GOD" BY WITHHOLDING TITHES AND OFFERINGS. 3:8-12.

- A. Their Sin.
 1. The people robbed God by not "tithing" properly.
 2. God promised blessings if they would change their ways.
- B. Our Sin.
 1. We are not required to "tithe" today.
 2. But, ***we are commanded*** to give as we have been prospered, 1 Cor. 16:1-2.
 3. We are commanded to give purposefully and cheerfully, 2 Cor. 9:7.
 4. When we give as God desires, we can expect blessings, 2 Cor. 9:8-10.
 5. We give, not for the expected blessings, but to show our love for the Lord and His goodness.

V. WE "ROB GOD" BY ARROGANTLY REFUSING TO SERVE HIM. 3:13-4:6.

- A. Their Sin.
 1. They were considered "arrogant" because they claimed it was "vain to serve God."
 2. They were not being rewarded as those who did wrong, 3:13-15.
 3. God reminded them through Malachi, "They will be Mine...," 3:16-18.
- B. Our Sin.
 1. Perhaps the thought that doing God's will has become useless.
 2. We need to understand that serving Christ makes a difference:
 - a. Believing in Christ, Jn. 8:24.
 - b. Repenting of our sins, Lk. 13:3.
 - c. Being obedient to the gospel, 2 Thess. 1:8-9.
 - d. Live faithful lives for the Lord, Rev. 2:10.
 3. There is coming a day of separation!