



Series: Promises

Sermon: Part 7: Are You Robbing God?

Date: Sunday, August 13th, 2023

We are constantly doing what it takes to get more money and when we have it, we do whatever we want with it.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)

“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.” (Malachi 3:6)

“Ever since the time of your ancestors 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. (Malachi 3:7)

_____ is when we realize that our way wasn't the best way, as we humble ourselves before God and make a decision to turn 180 degrees away from our sin as we stop going our way and start going God's way.

‘How are we to return?’ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob Me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing You?’ In tithes and offerings.” (Malachi 3:7-8)

A _____ was a tenth of your income and assets that was the regular portion given back to God.

The _____ was an additional gift of income and assets given by the people that went above their tithe.

To the Lord your God belong the Heavens, even the highest Heavens, the Earth and everything in it. (Deuteronomy 10:14)

“You are under a curse - your whole nation - because you are robbing Me.” (Malachi 3:9)

Money has an easy way to creep in and become the god of our lives and the god that we end up _____ in.

“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 there will not be room enough to store it.” (Malachi 3:10)



Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. (1 Corinthians 16:1-3)

Our Giving To God Should Be:

- 1. Periodic: done consistently and regularly**
- 2. Planned: thought of in advance**
- 3. Proportional: given in proportion to our blessings**
- 4. Private: between us and God alone**

Giving must be: Generous, Freely given, Cheerful

Begin with 10% as a good starting point and then build up from there.

Where do I tithe to? *The church you consider to be your home, that cares for you spiritually.*

"I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 3:11-12)

God is generous with everything He has and as His followers, He wants us to be generous with everything we have.

Bottom Line: *How we deal with money isn't just a financial issue, but a spiritual issue, it's a heart issue.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

- 1. If you consider yourself to be a follower of Jesus: Are you robbing God? Are you living in a way with your resources where God is not a part of the picture?*
- 2. What next step do you need to take to start putting God first in your finances?*
- 3. If you are already doing this, what next step can you take to be even more generous with what you have?*

Songs used in service: God Really Loves Us (David Crowder), Promises (Maverick City Music), Build My Live (Pat Barrett), Give Me Faith (Elevation Worship)

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Any prayer requests?

Name: _____ **Email (so we can follow up):** _____

What can we be praying for you about?