

Sermon Title:

"Giving – It's Your Responsibility"

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Sermon Text:

Malachi 3:7-11

1.03.10

Introduction:

- What was it that prompted the prophet Malachi to write what he did?
- *This text presents some tests by which we can determine the depth of our reverence and respect for God:*

I. The Test Of _____ Before God (3:8)

- The word translated "**rob**" means "to _____."
- *Why was this such a serious charge that God leveled against Israel?*

"If you are not honoring God in the matter of giving your tithes and offerings, then you are guilty of robbing God! And such an act against your God is shamefully inexcusable!"

- Malachi 3:9 and 11 record the _____ of such evil behavior.
- *Amos 4:9*

"How in the world can a blood-bought child of God steal from the very One who has given him eternal life?"

- The word "**tithe**" means a _____ part. It isn't a _____ word; it is a _____ word.

The practice of tithing is a _____ of who's in charge of my life!

- What does the phrase "**the whole tithe**" imply?
- *I Corinthians 16:2; Luke 11:42*

"You can fool your spouse; you can fool your parents; you can fool your pastor; you can even fool yourself – but nobody fools God!"

II. The Test Of _____ To God (3:7)

- The Israelites had a very low degree of _____ and _____ to God!
- *Malachi 3:14-15*

- One thing you can bank on is God's _____ to us! (Malachi 3:6-7)
- *The question isn't "is _____ faithful to _____;" the question is "are _____ faithful to _____?"*
- **Proverbs 3:9**
- One of the hardest things to devote to God is our _____.

III. The Test Of _____ In God (3:10-11)

"God had promised to provide for His people; but in order to claim the benefit of God's promise, they would have to trust Him by doing what He said."

- The word translated "**test**" means "to _____" or "_____ something as _____."

The real issue is not _____, but _____.

- **Matthew 6:33; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-8**
- **A mathematical mystery:** *"When is 90% greater than 100%?"*
- **Matthew 6:33**
- What is the significance of the word "**floodgates**"? (Genesis 7:11)

God has _____, and God will _____!

Conclusion:

"If we have robbed God, although the crime itself is most terrible, it is not beyond the reach of mercy! For the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." (Spurgeon)

Remember, it is your responsibility to make the divine principles and truths contained in this message real by consistent application of them in your own life.