

My Messenger – Part 5
Malachi 3:6-15: “Return to Me”

TWO SPIRITUAL TRUTHS ABOUT GOD’S FAITHFULNESS. v.6-7

1. God does not change. v.6-7

- God reminds His people of WHO He is: “For I the LORD do not change...”
- Doctrine of immutability. God does not and cannot change. Ref. Psalm 102:25-28; Hebrews 13:8
- God’s commitment to His people: “...therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”

2. God invites His people back into relationship with him. v.8

- This is both a command and an invitation. Ref. Acts 17:30
- “Return” = to turn again; Repentance = lit. a change of heart
- 1 Thes. 1:9: For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God
- Acts 3:19-20: Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...

→ How shall we return to God?

ROBBING GOD (AND ROBBING OURSELVES!) v.8-12

1. The people were robbing God in their tithes and contributions. v.8-9

- In OT, God commanded His people to give a tithe to the LORD. Lev. 27:30
- Tithe = “tenth” of all that was received. Leviticus 27:30
- The OT tithe was primarily for supporting the ministry of the Levites (who led in worship & teaching).
→ See Numbers 18:21-29.
-NOTE: tithing was “vertical”—they gave to the LORD, not to the Levites. Numbers 18:24
- In addition, God’s people were to give offerings above and beyond the LORD’s tithe. E.g., Lev. Ch. 1-6
- What is “the curse” from v.9?

2. God commands. v.10a

- Bring the full tithe into the storehouse. (Implies they were paying only a partial tithe).

3. God promises. v.10b-12

- God will bless you. v.10b
- God will protect you. 11
- God will witness to the world through you. v.12

→ God’s argument: ‘When you rob Me, you end up robbing yourself.’

ISRAEL’S WRONG PERSPECTIVE. v.13-15

1. They were speaking against God. v.13

- Your words have been ‘hard against me.’ hard = lit. ‘stout’ i.e., harsh, violent

2. They were saying that serving God is a waste of time. v.14-15 vain = waste of time. Ref. Malachi 1:10

- NOTE: You communicate more by your actions than you do by your words.

→ What is the profit?

“Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.” Psalm 119:37

“Give me an undivided heart that I may fear your name.” Psalm 86:11

“I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 11:19

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.”

-G.K. Chesterton