

Will A Man Rob God?

No. 147

Introduction.

I. This Lord's Day I would like to invite your attention to the reading of Malachi 3:8-10.

MAL 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings. 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

II. These words were written a little more than 400 years before the coming of Jesus Christ. The Jews at that time were in a very low spiritual state. They were guilty of almost every imaginable sin. Among their sins was a failure to give as they should to God. They were robbing God of the tithes and offerings they had been commanded to give. God condemned them for this and commanded them to bring the whole tithe if they wanted to be blessed.

III. Israel was guilty of robbing God, and many today who rob God in a variety of ways.

I. Money

A. There are many people today who rob God of money.

1. Many rob God by **not giving as they have been prospered.** (1 Cor. 16:2).

- a. Each person is commanded to give to the Lord as he has been prospered (as he has been blessed). Failure to do so is robbing God.
- b. This means if a man has been prospered so that he can give \$50.00 a Sunday and he gives \$20.00 he has robbed God of \$30.00. If a man has been prospered so that he can give \$100 a week and he gives \$50.00 he has robbed God of \$50.00. In a year's time he has robbed God of \$2,600.

2. Others rob God by **extravagance.**

- a. Many Christians buy a new home, a new car, new furniture and many other luxuries of life. If anything happens to be left over they give part of it to the Lord. They treat God like their dog. They give Him the scraps.
- b. **Once upon a time a chicken and a pig were passing a meeting house.** The preacher had his sermon title on the sign in front of the church building. He was going to preach on "How To Help The Poor." The chicken said to the pig, "I know how we can help a poor family, we can feed them a breakfast of ham and eggs." "Now hold on" said the pig. "That might be all right with you. For you that is a small contribution, but for me it is total sacrifice, total commitment." And brethren that is exactly what God expects of us. He wants total sacrifice, total commitment and He will not be satisfied with less.
- c. It is reported by the **Federal Government** that the average Christian is giving only about 3% of his income to the Lord. This means if each member gave as he has been prospered, at least 10% our contribution would likely triple.

3. Others rob God because of **waste**.
 - a. Today only about 4 % of the world's population lives in the US, but we consume more than 50% of the world's goods.
 - b. God has so richly blessed this nation. He has given us so much and we waste so much.
 - c. Christians, as a part of this nation, have been caught up in this sinful waste. This waste means we spend more on self and have less for God and others.
4. Still others rob God by **not making up their contributions**. Many people who miss on Sunday never make up their contribution. They spend the money on themselves. This is stealing from God!

B. There are several reason why men rob God.

1. Some rob God because of **lack of teaching**.
 - a. Teachers and preachers have not done enough teaching on the subject of scriptural giving.
 - b. It is my firm conviction that people will not give better than they have been taught. It is also my firm conviction that when people are taught they will do better.
2. Others rob God because of **ingratitude**. They are not grateful for the many blessings God has given them. Because of ingratitude they seek to give as little as possible to the Lord.
3. Others rob God because of **covetousness**.
 - a. They would rather keep the money and spend it on their selfish desires than give it to God.
 - b. **One a farmer went to hear a young preacher**. In the beginning of his sermon he said he would take up three points about money. "The first is, he said, 'Get all you can.'" At this the covetous farmer nudged his friend and said, "That's great preaching." "My second point is" he continued, "Save all you can" The farmer sat up and said, "There never was preaching like this! This is the man!" The young preacher said, "And my third point is, give all you can!" With this the farmer slumped in his pew muttering, "Now he has gone and ruined it all!"
 - c. Jesus gave this warning. (Lk. 12:15).

C. Let us now consider the **results of robbing God**. The results of robbing God are many fold.

1. Robbing God causes many **souls to be lost**. (Mk. 16:15).
 - a. When brethren rob God the church is only able to keep house. It is not able to do much work at home or abroad; consequently, many souls are lost.
 - b. If members would give as they have been prospered, every person in the world could have an opportunity to hear the gospel in the next few years. As it is many people will go to their graves without hearing about Christ and the church.
2. Robbing God **keeps the church from helping the needy**. (Matt. 25; Gal. 2:10; 6:10).
 - a. Because of a lack of funds the church is not able to do much benevolence work. For example, the church is taking care of a small percentage of the orphans in America. It takes hundreds of members of the church to support one little orphan. This is a disgrace to the church. The church is able and obligated to

do more this. I dare say there are few families who could not support 1 child by themselves if they had to or wanted to.

b. **There are many needy widows in our country.** Some are financially fixed and do not need any help. There are many widows who have a few hundred dollars a month to live on. Robbing God keeps the church from helping these widows.

c. **Let's stop robbing God** and start giving generously that we may help the orphans and widows. (Jas. 1:27). James did not say it is optional if we help the orphans and widows. He said our religion is pure and undefiled when we help them. It is repulsive to God when we do not.

3. Robbing God deprives us **spiritual and material blessing**.

a. Note **Mal. 3:10**

b. There is a **story of a rich man who wanted to help a poor carpenter** and his family. He hired him to build a house and went away on a long journey. The carpenter said, "My boss is away so I can use shoddy materials and no one but me will know." So he build a cheap and shoddy house. When the rich man returned the carpenter said to him, "Here is your house all finished according to your instruction.." "Good," said the rich man, "and here are the keys and the deed. It is yours. I am giving you this house to live in." Over the years the carpenter grieved for using cheap materials for he had only cheated himself.

c. We only cheat ourselves when we give to God in a cheap way. (2 Cor. 9:6, 7). **III.** of results of sowing a little seed.

4. Robbing God we **damn our souls**. The Lord teaches that covetous men will be lost and will not inherit the kingdom of God.

II. **Time** - There are other ways that men rob God today. Many rob God of the time He has given them.

A. **God has given each of us 168 hours a week.** When we give God only a few hours of our time, we have certainly robbed Him. Christians have been taught to redeem the time and use it wisely in God's service. We should spend a very generous portion of time worshiping and serving God.

B. It is shameful how little time many Christian spend in the service of God.

No time for God? What fools we are, to clutter up Our lives with common things And leave without heart's gate The Lord of life and life itself - Our God!	No time for God? That day when sickness comes Or trouble finds you out And you cry out for God; Will He have time for you?
No time for God? As soon to say no time To eat or sleep or love or die. Take time for God, Or you shall dwarf your soul, And when the angel of death Comes knocking at your door, A poor mishappen thing you'll be To step into eternity!	No time for God? Some day you'll lay aside This mortal self and make your way To worlds unknown, And when you meet Him face to face Will He - should He, Have time for you? -----Norman L Trott

III. **Talents** - There are others today who rob God of their talents.

A. They are burying their talents as the one talent man did.

1. Some of our **best teachers** have never taught a lesson. Some of our **best leaders** are not leading. Some of our **best preachers** have never preached a sermon. Some of our **best song leaders** have never led a song. Some of the **best encouragers** are not encouraging.
2. Much talent is simply being wasted in the church.

B. There are several reasons for this waste.

1. In the first place, much talent is wasted because of **lack of training**. Most congregations are doing little, if anything, to train their members to serve and use their talents for the Lord. In this congregation and in every other congregation we need classes and training programs to train our boys and girls, men and women to serve.
2. In the second place, much talent is wasted in the church because many think you **must have a lot of talent to do anything**.
 - a. **One time 2 men were talking**. One was a giant of a fellow and the other was very small. The little fellow said, "If I were as big as you, I wouldn't be afraid of anything. Why, I'd go out in the woods and find me the biggest bear there—and you know what I'd do? I'd tear that big bear limb from limb, that's what I'd do?" The big man, smiling, replied, "There's lots of little bears in the woods,. Why don't you just go out and tackle one of them?"
 - b. **This story has a moral to it**. There are many Christians who are not utilizing their talents because they feel they are not as big or capable as someone else. They fail to realize that there are many jobs that the man with the little talent can and should do. A man may not be able to **preach** to thousands, but he can bring people to listen to the gospel. A man may not be able to **teach** a class, but he can tell a friend or loved one about Jesus. A man may not be able to **lead singing** or **prayer**, but he can pray and sing in his seat. Brethren, the Lord's work comes in all sizes!
3. In the third place, much talent in the church is wasted because **many are content to criticize**.
 - a. Once a **baseball coach** said he knew a fellow who could play every position on the team better than anyone else, and hit 800 in the major leagues. He said there was just one hitch. He couldn't get the fellow to lay down his hot dog and come out of the stands. He was content to be a spectator and to criticize..
 - b. We also have some in the church who are **content to criticize**. They need to quit criticizing and come down out of the stands and get to work. They need to zealously and earnestly work for the growth of the kingdom. The church needs more workers and fewer critical spectators.

IV. **Hearts** - There are others today who rob God of their hearts.

A. God does not want part of our heart or even most of our heart. God wants our entire heart. To give God less than the whole heart is to rob our Creator.

B. God said.

DEU 6:5 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;

JOS 22:5 "Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord

commanded you, to love the Lord your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

1. Jesus said. (Matt. 22:37).
2. It is clear we are to love God with all our hearts and we manifest this love by serving Him and obeying His commandments. We manifest this love by worshiping God with our hearts - not merely our lips.
3. Let us pray as David did . (Psa. 119:10). As a deer pants for water brooks, our hearts should pant (long) for God.

Conclusion.

- I. **Beloved**, we owe God our money, our talents, our time, and our hearts. Let us then stop robbing God and give Him what rightfully belongs to Him.
- II. Someone has said, "Some people will miss heaven by **18 inches** - the distance from the heart to the head."
 - A. I pray you and I will not "miss heaven by 18 inches."
 - B. Let's give God our heart - our whole heart.
- III. Come now and surrender your life to God. Be baptized and then walk in the newness of life. Come as we sing.

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