

Confronting Complacency: The Book of Malachi

May 24th, 2020

Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

Loosening Our Grip on God's Money (Malachi 3:6-12)

1. Giving is a heart issue (3:6-7)

2. Giving is giving back (3:7-10)

3. Giving is gaining (3:10-12)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. When was the last time you made an impulsive purchase? What did you buy? Why did the product seem so desirable to you?

Going Deeper

3. How does God describe Israel's refusal to tithe (vv. 6-7)? According to Jesus, why is generosity a heart issue (Matthew 6:18-24)? How does this transform our perspective on giving?
4. How was Israel robbing God (vv. 7-10)? Why is it significant that God refers to Israel's disobedience as robbery (see Psalm 24:1)? How does viewing God as the owner of our wealth/possessions transform our perspective on generosity (see Luke 16:10)?
5. What does God promise to do if his people obey his commandment (vv. 10-12)? What does it mean for Israel to put God "to the test" (v. 10)? Why is it important for us to understand this command in its Old Covenant context (see Deuteronomy 28:1-12)? Why is it more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)? What do we gain from giving?

Application

6. Are Christians obligated to tithe? Why or why not? If we're free from the tithe, then what principles should guide our giving (see 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Galatians 6:10; Philippians 4:15, 17; 1 Timothy 5:17-18)? Which of these principles stood out to you? Why?
7. We give (1) to align our hearts with God's, (2) so that we can be entrusted with greater kingdom responsibilities, and (3) to experience God's blessing. Which of these motivations stood out to you? Why?
8. What's one thing this week you can apply from this passage?