



Scripture Text: Malachi 3:6–12

6“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 7From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ 8Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. 9You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. 11I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. 12Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

Key Themes:

- Repentance
- Tithing
- Trusting God’s provision

Introduction:

Malachi 3:6–12 calls God’s people to return to Him through repentance, faithful giving, and trust in His provision. This passage is a profound reminder of God’s unchanging nature and His desire to bless His people when they walk in obedience. Through practical application, we will explore what it means to prioritize God in our lives, trust Him with our resources, and experience His abundant provision.

Study Notes:

1. God's Unchanging Nature (v. 6)

"I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed."

- God's immutability ensures His promises remain steadfast. Despite Israel's rebellion, His covenant faithfulness sustains them.

2. A Call to Return (v. 7)

"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.

- God initiates reconciliation, emphasizing His readiness to restore relationships when we turn back to Him.

3. The Accusation of Robbing God (v. 8)

"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings."

- God challenges the people's neglect of tithing, which reflects a deeper issue of mistrust and misplaced priorities.

4. Consequences of Disobedience (v. 9)

"You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me."

- Disobedience invites spiritual and material consequences, as Israel's lack of trust hindered their blessings.

5. The Challenge to Trust God (v. 10)

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty.

- This verse is unique as God invites His people to "test" His faithfulness by giving generously and watching Him provide abundantly.

6. God's Promise of Blessing (v. 11–12)

"I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe."

- God's blessings extend beyond financial provision to protection, fruitfulness, and a reputation of faithfulness.

Study Questions & Discussion Questions:

1. What does Malachi 3:6 teach us about God's character?

2. Why does God's unchanging nature matter in the context of this passage?

3. What does it mean to "return" to God, and why is it significant?

4. How were the people of Israel robbing God, and how does this apply to us today?

5. What does the "whole tithe" symbolize in our relationship with God?

6. How does Malachi 3:10 challenge us to trust God's provision?

7. What specific blessings does God promise to those who faithfully give?

8. Why do you think God invites His people to test Him in this area?

9. How can financial faithfulness be a reflection of spiritual maturity?

10. What steps can you take this week to return to God in areas where trust has been lacking?

Practical Application:

- **Examine Your Priorities:** Evaluate areas of life where God may not be first and realign your focus.
- **Faithful Stewardship:** Commit to regular and intentional giving as an act of worship and trust.
- **Trust God's Provision:** Remember that God's resources are unlimited, and He provides for those who honour Him.

Take-Home Challenge

Identify One Area to Return: Reflect on a specific area in your life where you need to “return” to God—whether in finances, time, or trust—and take a practical step to realign with His will.

Practice Generosity: Commit to giving faithfully this week, whether through tithing, helping someone in need, or supporting a ministry.

Journal Your Experience: Write down how God responds to your trust and obedience. Note any ways He provides or blesses you.

Reflection

Take time at the end of the week to reflect on God's faithfulness as you acted in trust and obedience. Pray for continued growth in areas where you struggle to fully surrender to Him. Share testimonies of God's provision with others to encourage their faith.