WILL A MAN ROB GOD?
Malachi 3: 8 - 13
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INTRODUCTION
1. The book of Malachi was written when the spirituality of Israel was at an extremely low ebb.
   (1) They were neglecting to honor God as their Father -- Mal. 1:6.
   (2) They were offering polluted bread -- Mal. 1:7
   (3) They were offering the blind, lame, and sick -- Mal. 1:8, 13.
   (4) They were divorcing their wives of their youth and marrying women who worshipped idols -- Mal. 2:11 - 16.
   (5) The priest had departed from the truth -- Mal. 2:8 - 9.
   (6) They had wearied God with their words -- Mal. 2:17.
2. They had robbed God -- Mal. 3:8.
   (1) They were giving, but not as much as they should.
   (2) The Lord commanded the whole tithe -- Mal. 3:10.
3. Robbery is one of the worst sins -- Eph. 4:28.
   (1) When a person is guilty of robbery, public sentiment and the law demands punishment.
   (2) But what is our attitude toward those who rob God?
   (3) Is not the person who robs God as guilty as the man who robs his fellowman?
   (4) Tithes and offerings freely given are acknowledgments of God's ownership and of man's stewardship -- I Cor. 10:26; Psa. 50:10 - 15.

I. HOW MEN ROB GOD FINANCIALLY TODAY!
1. Men and women prosper each week and give NOTHING or VERY LITTLE in comparison to what they earn.
   (1) The Lord's plan is for each Christian to give each week, liberally and bountifully, and cheerfully -- I Cor. 16:1 - 2; 2 Cor. 9:6 - 7.
   (2) Each member is to share his part of the expense -- Acts 2:42.
   (3) The man who makes good money each week and robs God of His part is standing in the "bread line" of the church -- receiving, but not giving -- Gal. 6:6.
   (4) If you should be giving $10.00 and are only giving $5.00, you are robbing God like Israel did -- Mal. 3:8.
   (5) Are you dealing honestly with God, or are you a religious "cheat" like Ananias and Sapphira?? -- Acts 5:1 - 11.
2. Another way we rob God is by just giving Him the "left-overs".
   (1) This is treating God like a dog -- most people give the dog the left-overs.
   (2) Israel did this -- they gave the lame and sick -- Mal. 1:13.
   (3) God wants the first fruit offering -- Lev. 23:10; Matt. 6:33.
3. We rob God when we miss the worship and never give that which we would have given had we attended.
   (1) What did you do with the Lord's money?
(2) You admit that it was His; that you had it set aside for Him, and that had you attended, you would have given it.

II. WHY DO MEN ROB GOD?

1. LACK OF TEACHING -- not enough teaching has been done on the subject by all.

2. SELFISHNESS and PERSONAL PLEASURE.
   (1) Often, members spend more each for personal pleasure, then they give to God -- 2 Tim. 3:4.

3. False PRIDE AND EXTRAVAGANCE -- keeping up with the neighbors -- nothing left for God.

4. POOR MANAGEMENT.
   (1) Most people make more than just a living -- Eph. 4:28.
   (2) We are stewards of God -- Luke 16: 10 -13.

5. STINGINESS and LOVE OF MONEY -- I Tim. 6: 9 - 10.

6. Many DO NOT LOVE THE CAUSE OF CHRIST as they should -- 2 Cor. 8: 8 - 9, 24.

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