

BEAUTYFROMCHAOS



ROBBING GOD: Malachi 3:7-12

SHARINGSTORIES

Wow. The text Ben taught Sunday was powerful. Malachi has been a powerful book from the start, but the specifics of this passage hit home for lots of us. Giving is an issue that most folks have definite thoughts about. At the same time, most people have a difficult time consistently living up to these ideas. Many of us feel guilty about it. Many of us have also grown callous and only feel bad when confronted with the issue. The reason this passage is so powerful is that it brings the issue to the forefront and, most importantly, shows us precisely *why* it is so important. Giving is not about duty; it is about honoring, trusting, and obeying God.

What are your first thoughts and feelings when the subject of giving is mentioned?

Do you see a connection between giving and one's relationship with God? What is it?

DIGGINGIN

Ben did a great job of pointing out the real issue Malachi was driving toward. Read the passage and share responses to the following questions.

What is the problem? What three things were the Israelites doing?

Why didn't the Israelites understand what they were doing and question the Lord?

How does God promise to respond to the way we do or do not trust him with our resources?

GOINGDEEPER

The Old Testament spelled out clearly how much the Israelites were to give. Pre-Law, they were to give 10%. After the Law, they were to give a total of 33%. We are no longer under the law, but the New Testament has given us ideas about giving: give generously, sacrificially, in all circumstances, and as God leads.

How do you personally feel about the ways and amounts you give to the Lord?

How have you seen God respond to trusting Him (or not) in this area?

What correlation do you see between not giving and rejecting God? How are they related?

PRAYER

Spend this time discerning how best pray for one another. Praise God for one specific item and petition Him for one request on their behalf.

Pray that God would speak to our hearts re financial issues; give us strength and courage to trust Him; and an awareness of His promises to always provide for our true needs.

REFLECTION

What one idea has the Spirit impressed on your mind and heart from this passage?

MALACHI BEAUTYFROMCHAOS