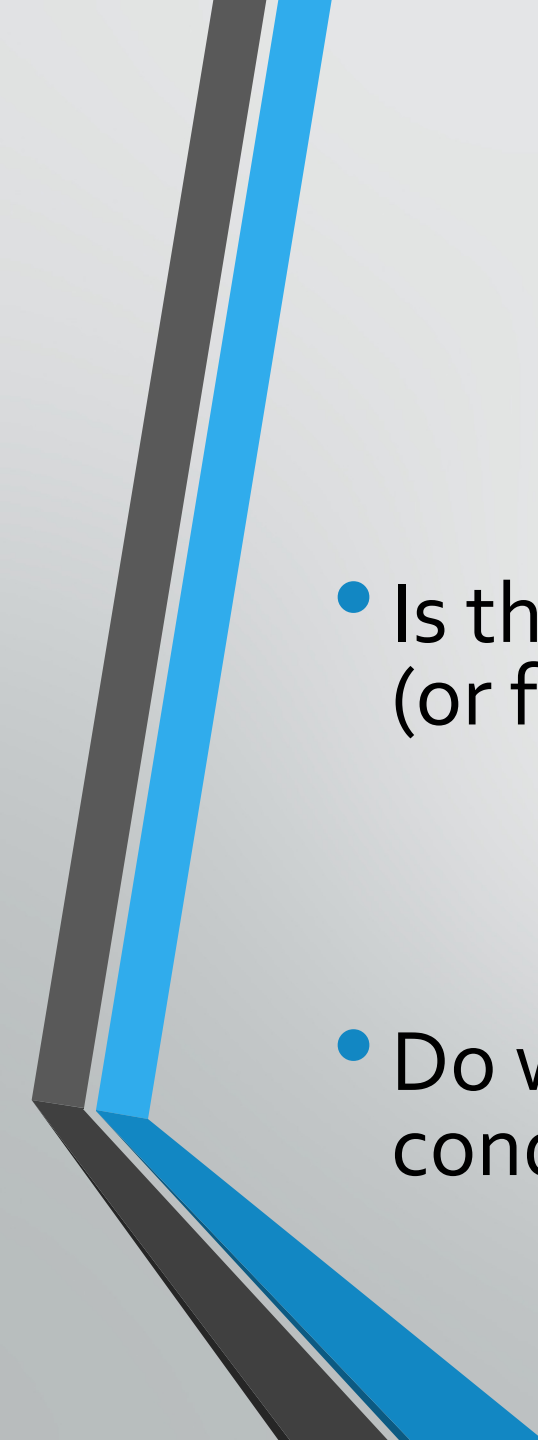


UNMEASURED BLESSINGS

MALACHI 3:7-12

- 
- Is there anyone here who does not desire the blessing (or favor) of the Lord in their lives?
 - Do we realize God's blessing (favor) is often conditioned upon our obedience to His revealed Word?

MALACHI 3:7-12

- ⁷ “From 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?’ ⁸ “**Will a man rob God?** Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!*”

MALACHI 3:7-12

- 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.

MALACHI 3:7-12

- ¹¹ Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes*,” says the LORD of hosts. ¹² “**All the nations will call you blessed**, for you shall be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.

GOD'S
INDICTMENT
vs 7a

- You have strayed from my commandments.

GOD'S CALL vs 7b

- Return to Me!
- Acknowledge where you have gone astray
- Make the appropriate course correction

GOD'S
PROMISE
vs 7b

- IF you return to Me, THEN I will return to you.
- Had God moved? Not really!
 - But He had removed His hand of blessing and favor from their lives as a community.
- Many of God's promises are conditional.
 - Having His favor is a conditional promise.

GOD'S
EVIDENCE
vs 8-9

- THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN ROBBING GOD!

THE THEFT

- Withholding their tithes and offerings.
- In doing so, they had neglected their responsibility to provide for God's appointed Priests. (Lev. 8:31; 24:5-9)
- In doing so, they had caused there to be a lack of resources to care for the widows and orphans. (Deut. 14:28-29)

THE CONSEQUENCES

- The people were not experiencing God's hand of favor/blessing!
- The people were actually under a curse by God, as He had promised. (Deut. 28:15-68, esp. vs 47)

GOD'S CALL EXPLAINED

VS 10

- A rare call to put the Lord to the “test”.
 - See if He is faithful to keep His promises!
- The real test was; did they (do we) trust the Lord to provide for their (our) needs?
- Would they be willing to do things God's way even if it didn't make sense?

GOD'S
PROMISES
EXPLAINED
VS 11-12

- God would “rebuke” the devourer.
 - The ground would produce abundant crops
 - The vines would also produce fruit in abundance
- All the nations will call you blessed.
 - The nations around will see the benefits of serving the Living God.

APPLICATION

- God still desires that we give, from His resources entrusted to us, so that we provide for the widows, the orphans and those less fortunate.
 - James 1:27 with Acts 6:1
- Pure and undefiled religion is; taking care of the Widows and Orphans in their time of need...
- Widows were being cared for in the early church, the gifts were given by the people and administered by the leaders.

APPLICATION

- God still desires that we give, from His resources entrusted to us, so that we provide for those who work hard at preaching the word.
 - 1 Tim. 5:17-18
- An Elder who works hard at preaching and teaching is worthy of double honor
- A workman is worthy of his wage

APPLICATION

- How much should we give?
- A typical starting point is 10%.
 - This was clearly commanded under the Mosaic Covenant
 - This is still implied by Jesus in Mt. 23:23
- Give as you purpose in your heart.
- Give willingly and cheerfully.

APPLICATION

- How much should we give?
- MOST IMPORTANTLY...
- Give as you purpose in your heart.
 - Be intentional and thoughtful in your giving.
- Give willingly and cheerfully.
 - Don't allow others to pressure you into giving.

APPLICATION

- God still desires that we “trust Him” to provide for our needs.
 - Matthew 6:19-34
 - Store up treasure in the heavenlies.
 - Do not be anxious about the provisions needed for this life.
 - Seek first His Kingdom.
 - Seek first His righteousness.
 - Trust Him to take care of you needs as you prioritize obedience and trust.