

ROBBING OUR REDEEMER

Malachi: Factors Fighting Against My Faith - Part 3

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⁶ **I the Lord do not change.** So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your forefathers **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.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

⁸ **Will a man rob God?** Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’

“In **TITHES AND OFFERINGS.** ⁹ **You are under a curse**—the whole nation of you—because **you are robbing me.** ¹⁰ **BRING THE WHOLE TITHE** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **TEST ME IN THIS,**” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much **blessing** that you will not have room enough for it. ¹¹ I will **prevent** pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the Lord Almighty. ¹² **Then all the nations will call you blessed,** for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 3:6–12 (NIV84)

APATHY is the sickness.

GIVING is the symptom.

PROBING GOD’S PROBLEM WITH PASSIVITY

1. **PREMISE:** God’s **FAITHFULNESS** is not contingent on ours.

“For I am the Lord—**I do not change.** That is why you are not already utterly destroyed, for my mercy endures forever.” (Malachi 3:6, The Living Bible)

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, **today,** and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8, NLT)

2. **PROBLEM:** Our religion has become **ROUTINE,** and our trust is in **SELF.**

“Ever since the time of your forefathers **you have turned away** from my decrees and have not kept them.” (Malachi 3:7a, NIV84)

“I know everything you have done, and you are not cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other. But since you are **lukewarm** and **neither cold nor hot,** I will spit you out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:15–16, CEV)

“The Lord says: **Cursed** is the man who **puts his trust in mortal man** and **turns his heart away from God.**” (Jeremiah 17:5, The Living Bible)

3. **PROMISE: RETURN TO GOD and He will return to you.**

“RETURN TO ME, AND I WILL RETURN TO YOU,” says the Lord Almighty.” (Malachi 3:7b, NIV84)

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17, NIV84)

“You have wearied the Lord with your words. “How have we wearied him?” you ask. By saying, “All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them” or **“Where is the God of justice?”**” (Malachi 2:17, NIV84)

“...And yet you ask, **“HOW CAN WE RETURN?”**” (Malachi 3:7c, CEV)

4. **PROPOSITION: How I manage my MONEY demonstrates my master.**

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me.” (Malachi 3:8–9, NIV84)

“For where your **treasure** is, there will your **heart** be also.” (Luke 12:34, ESV)

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for **whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**” (Galatians 6:7, ESV)

5. **PROOF: Put your TITHE where your trust is!**

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **TEST ME** in this,” says the Lord Almighty... (Malachi 3:10a, NIV84)

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to **put God first** in your lives.” (Deuteronomy 14:23c, The Living Bible)

6. **PROVISION: His grace will always EXCEED my giving.**

“I am the Lord All-Powerful, and I challenge you to **PUT ME TO THE TEST.** Bring the entire ten percent into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house. Then I will open the **windows of heaven** and flood you with **blessing after blessing.**” (Malachi 3:10, CEV)

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For **with the measure you use,** it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38, NIV84)

7. **PROTECTION: He extends the WARRANTY for those who worship Him.**

“Then I will **rebuke the devourer** for you so that it will not corrupt the fruits of the ground...” (Malachi 3:11, LSB)

“He has even told you, “For forty years I, the Lord, led you through the desert, but your clothes and your sandals didn’t wear out, and I gave you special food. I did these things so you would realize that I am your God...” (Deuteronomy 29:5, CEV)

8. PURPOSE: He demonstrates His GOODNESS to a watching world!

“Everyone of every nation will talk about how I have blessed you and about your wonderful land. I, the Lord All-Powerful, have spoken!” (Malachi 3:12, CEV)

“Faithfully obey these laws. This will show the people of the world your wisdom and insight. When they hear about all these laws, they will say, “What wise and insightful people there are in this great nation!” What great nation ever had their gods as near to them as the Lord our God is near to us...?” (Deuteronomy 4:6–7, GW)

NEXT STEP

90-Day Tithe Challenge

<https://oakridge.live/tithe-challenge>