



MALACHI

**“Return to Me”
Malachi 3:6-12**

⁶“For I, Yahweh, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.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 Yahweh 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 contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!

Malachi 3:6-12

¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says Yahweh of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and empty out for you a blessing until it is beyond enough. ¹¹Then I will rebuke the devourer for you so that it will not corrupt the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field fail to bear,” says Yahweh of hosts. ¹²“So all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says Yahweh of hosts.

Malachi 3:6-12

Introduction

A. The Babylonian Captivity had ended. Thousands of Jews had returned to Israel between 538-536 BC.

B. The temple had been rebuilt and sacrifices were resumed in 516 BC.

Introduction

C. By the time of Malachi, the people have been back in the land for around 100 years. Temple sacrifices were continuing, but their worship was little more than a religious ritual. They were going through the motions.

D. Malachi, God's prophet, confronted both the priests and the people for their half-hearted, hypocritical worship.

Introduction

E. Malachi's tone was stern, solemn, and serious. But his message was one of restoration not condemnation.

F. Big Idea: God is giving you an opportunity to get right with Him.

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

⁶“For I, Yahweh, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”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 Yahweh of hosts. “But you say, ‘How shall we return?’

Malachi 3:6-7

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

A. “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us” (A. W. Tozer).

B. Knowing God is everything.

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

C. “This says Yahweh, ‘Let not a wise man boast in his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast in his might; let not a rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am Yahweh who shows lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for I delight in these things,’ declares Yahweh” (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

D. “For I, Yahweh, do not change” (3:6a). We need to know that God is faithful.

1. The glorious reality is that God never changes. This is the doctrine of immutability.

2. God does not change, evolve, or adapt. He is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. God does not need help, assistance, or support.

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

3. God is a God of His word. “The lovingkindnesses of Yahweh indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23). “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

4. Don’t let your present circumstances cause you to question God’s faithfulness.

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

- 5. The gracious result of this glorious reality is
“therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not
consumed” (3:6b).**
- 6. God was saying if I had changed you would
have been toast a long time ago.**

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

**E. We need to know that God is patient with
His people. (3:7)**

- 1. They had been rebellious and disobedient a
long time. Think all the way back to Mount
Sinai and the golden calf incident.**
- 2. “You have turned aside from My statutes.”
That was intentional disobedience.**

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

3. “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but Yahweh has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him” (Isaiah 53:6).

4. ““Return to Me, and I will return to you,’ says Yahweh of hosts” (3:7b). This is the message of Malachi.

I. We Need to Know God (3:6-7)

5. God was saying I know all about you. I know all about your sinful and stubborn rebellion.

**“Return to Me, and I will return to you.”
(1 John 1:9; James 4:8)**

6. But they said, “How shall we return?”

II. We Need to Honor God (4:8-9)

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

Malachi 3:8-9

II. We Need to Honor God (4:8-9)

A. There’s a saying: Giving is a part of our worship. Well, not exactly. GIVING IS WORSHIP.

B. That’s why you can come to church every Sunday and not worship. People come to church to get from God.

II. We Need to Honor God (4:8-9)

C. Worship is not about what you get from God. Worship is about what you give to Him out of gratitude. Giving is the essence of worship.

D. God's glory is tied to my giving. No matter how much you play church, you don't really worship until your faith costs you something.

II. We Need to Honor God (4:8-9)

E. Yahweh answered their question with a question. "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me." (Exodus 20:15)

F. They responded to God: "How have we robbed You?" God said: "In tithes and offerings."

G. Tithes emphasize the duty and responsibility of giving. (Leviticus 27:30)

II. We Need to Honor God (4:8-9)

H. The tithes were used to compensate the priests and their helpers, carry on the work, and care for the poor.

I. There is no New Testament command to tithe. However, there is a principle where we are to give a portion based on how the Lord has blessed us. (1 Corinthians 16:2: 2 Corinthians 8:7-9; 9:6-7)

II. We Need to Honor God (4:8-9)

J. “Contributions.” Contributions reflect the privilege of giving. Portions of the animal sacrifices to which the priests were entitled (Exodus 29:27-28; Leviticus 9:22).

K. 3:9. They were experiencing curses for not keeping God’s commandments (Deuteronomy 28:15-68).

II. We Need to Honor God (4:8-9)

L. Christians do not suffer curses. Jesus has taken the curse we rightly deserve. He suffered on the cross in our place. (Romans 8:1)

M. But Christians can suffer consequences for their rebellion against God. (Galatians 6:7-10)

N. We need to honor God and worship Him with all our hearts.

III. We Need to Trust God (3:10-12)

¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says Yahweh of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and empty out for you a blessing until it is beyond enough. ¹¹Then I will rebuke the devourer for you so that it will not corrupt the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field fail to bear," says Yahweh of hosts. ¹²"So all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says Yahweh of hosts. - Malachi 3:10-12

III. We Need to Trust God (3:10-12)

A. “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house” 3:10a). This was a command, not a suggestion.

B. They were to bring one-tenth of their agricultural produce to the temple as a mark of God’s ownership of the promised land (Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 14:22-29).

III. We Need to Trust God (3:10-12)

C. It’s important to insert here that God doesn’t need your tithes and contributions. (Psalm 50:12)

D. But you need to give to God because giving is the essence of worship.

E. “Test Me now in this” (3:10c). This is a reversal of the normal biblical pattern, in which God typically tests human beings.

III. We Need to Trust God (3:10-12)

F. Your giving is not just an act of worship; it's also an act of trust.

G. You cannot out give God. (3:10d)

H. Can you imagine how you would feel if your child asked the next door neighbor for some food but didn't ask you? So how does our Heavenly Father feel when we ask everyone else but never ask Him?

III. We Need to Trust God (3:10-12)

I. God "will open for you the windows of heaven and empty out for you a blessing until it is beyond enough" (there is not room enough).

J. God was saying you will never out give Me. If you trust God, He will take care of you.

K. God promised His people provision (3:10), protection (3:11), and pleasure (3:12).

III. We Need to Trust God (3:10-12)

L. “It is the blessing of Yahweh that makes rich, and He adds no pain with it” (Proverbs 10:22).

M. We need to trust God.

Conclusion

A. Big Idea: God is giving you an opportunity to get right with Him.

B. You need to know God, honor God, and trust God.

C. “His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.