

4/17/88

Malachi Series - Chap. 3:7-10

In Malachi 3 Verse 6 God says:  
"Because I am God, I change not,  
The Only reason you have not  
been utterly destroyed is  
because I'm God (Full of  
mercy / Full of Grace)"

Let me Ask this Question, "are you  
as appreciative of the long  
suffering nature of God as  
you ought to be?" I hope so.

"Let's thank God, Right Now"

Prayer

Now let's Read Malachi 3: 7-10

(Do So)

Read also Bar: 3:9

Do you understand what God is  
saying in 1-7? Do you hear  
what God is saying?

"The Men have sinned,

yet do I love you"

See is

Oh the love of God is something else  
God said: "This is not the  
first time my covenant people  
have sinned

"The very first people I  
called my own // those  
who first received my  
promise // have sinned  
against me"

But that's no excuse for you  
Noa is it any excuse for us —

God says to these people in Malachi's  
day — "You say 'You love me'  
"You claim to be committed to me"

"Yet all the while you continue in  
your sin —"

"You better be thankful  
that it's me dealing with  
you" God said

And dear hearts, "At our best" we better  
be glad the "I AM" is dealing with us —

2/ Why? Because of what Isaiah said in Chapter 64 Verse 6

"But be reminded, we are all infected with sin, and are impure, you see when we put on our prized robes of righteousness, we find they are all one or filthy bags. God had Isaiah remind the people of this.

Mark Cole says this: "Our filthy bags of righteousness, in the best side of us, when put alongside God

Oh praise God, it's He who deals with us, Always loving / loving / Just //

Oh listen to what God said: "Repent" (that's what return means here in the Hebrew) Return to me, and I will return to you"

- ① Turn from your wicked ways
- ② Turn to God
- ③ Acknowledge your sins
- ④ Then & only then will I forgive you

Oh what a God we have / Oh praise His  
Long Suffering Nature "Not willing  
that any should perish / But  
wishing all to be saved"

What happened when Malachi shared  
God's Message? A Great Revival //  
"A Great Returning to God?" NO

They Said: "Oh but we don't understand  
wherein shall we return? We're  
not gone away from you"

Oh my soul, "all they did was add  
to their sins that had wearied God"  
} Just as we add to our sins  
} when we deny our need to  
} repent // when we refuse  
to draw near to God

Do you know what these people were  
actually doing? "They were calling  
God a liar"

God knew their sin / they knew their sin  
yet they asked: what do you mean?

The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 1:10  
 "If we claim we have no sin,  
 we are lying, and calling God  
 a liar, for he says: we have  
 sinned."

Paul wrote, "All have sinned / All fall  
 short of God's expectations Rom 3:23"

Oh Dear hearts, "We might just as well  
 curse up to our eyes, because  
 God knows everyone of them" *Amen*

These folks are not asking for forgiveness  
 but pleading ignorance *(Just Won't Work)*

Have you noticed how very often God  
 answers questions by asking questions.  
 Listen to James 8 & 9 (read them)

{ Now God wasn't forgetting what had been  
 said, but rather letting them know He  
 knew ALL their sins —

The Question:

"Will a man Rob God?"

It Was Gods Way of Saying: "Search Your hearts"

It Was Gods Way of Appealing to the Conscience of man —

But did you Notice, Jim had done a Good Job Their Conscience had become slow to the desires of their hearts —

When See Your Conscience Can do a job as You —

It Can Say: It must be ok, everyone is doing it (When everyone isn't doing it)

It Can Say: Drinking & Gambling Can't be all bad after all didn't a gambler save Oral Roberts life with money he made gambling // haven't you heard how the big distilleries give great sums of money for Good Causes —

Let me tell you folks: God doesn't need that kind of money — Amen  
Just because it looks or seems God doesn't make it Good or of God

4 A Coral Snake is pretty / But It'll do  
you no good

When our hearts are right with God,  
Our Conscience will be in our drive.  
It'll say: "Hands off // Abstain from all  
that hints of evil" (1 Thm 5:22)

God said: "You have Robbed from me"  
The people said: "God, You're gonna have  
to be more specific" (And God did)

Now God could have said: "Because you  
refuse to let me use the following  
you have Robbed me. Like Time /  
Like Talents / Like influence / Like  
Faithful use in worship — you see  
we Rob God if we do not turn  
them over to Him — (Sure Do)"

But God chose to call out 2 things of a  
material nature that they could not  
deny — (Now listen carefully, it  
could be that some here tonight  
are guilty of robbing God)

God said: "You've held back the tithes  
And offerings that belong to me"  
Because you have, "You are guilty  
of robbing God"

New father's history, "It's still a sin to  
rob God by withholding tithes and  
offerings"

Jesus said: "Pay Caesar what you owe  
Him // He also said: Pay God what  
you owe Him" (Luke 20:25)

"Render" in the Greek means: "Give back"  
And it implies a willingness to do so

But God didn't stop there, God said:  
"A curse be on one who robs God"  
"A curse be on a nation who robs God"

God said: "You sin by robbing me of tithes  
And offerings - You add to it by swearing  
others by your example"  
Like it or not, God said: "The tithes  
is mined off the top" The offering



57 Says: "Thank You for the privilege"

Folks, "We can deny/Complain/try to  
eyeball away the word of God all  
we want to, But that does not change  
the issue."

God said: "Bring Ye ALL the tithes  
unto the storehouse" (There is way  
the temple / today it's the place of  
worship we call the church) Bring  
it all God said // don't hold any  
back

Ananias & Sapphira lied to God over  
what to bring — It cost their lives.

Oh Dear hearts, check it out, according  
to what God said (not what someone else  
said) one year stealing from God?

I hear people say: "I would tithe,  
But I can't afford to do so"

Folks I can't afford not to tithe / And  
wouldn't rob God if I could.

The Bible Says: "All things belong to God"  
Suppose He TOOK Nine parts, and  
left us but one —  
(He could if He chose to do so)

But I believe with all my heart  
that "Giving As God Says Give, is  
simply a reflection of our Confidence  
in God —

Did you know that Refusing to Give, or  
Saying you can't afford to Give, is  
Denying the word of God.  
(It said so)

In J-10 God says: Joy Me / Grieve Me

He says: "If you will obey me // I  
will bless you // I'll supply ALL your  
needs, and will continue to do so  
as long as you obey me"

God's word says: I will open the storehouse  
of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing,  
until your cup runneth over.

Amen

Now listen, Before you run to Ruth with  
a check for all your back to this,  
expecting to get Money Rich if you  
pay them — Hear this —

The Blessings of God are Not Necessarily  
Money —

You see Gracie, knowing that  
it pleases God, should be  
blessing enough —

Hearing God say: "Well Done, is enough  
Blessing for me —"

You see, "To Love God with all our  
hearts we must obey Him" To  
Love God, is to be faithful to His  
Word —

What do you Consider Blessings?  
Life / Health / Family / Home / a little  
money in the Bank —

How about: A place to worship

How about: The privilege to serve Him

How About: The joy of coming back to  
God a portion of what He blessed you  
with

How About: Salvation / Security As a believer

How About: "The presence of His Holy Spirit"

How About: The home He is preparing for us

How About: The Victory Celebrations He's planning  
for us when we go Home —

How About: Sins being forgiven —

No, God did not say: "You'd become  
rich in worldly goods, if you obey  
His word — But He did say:  
"I'll bless you beyond anything  
you thought possible"

Are you obeying God, knowing all  
the while He already knows —  
Could it be that His message caused  
you to see you've been robbing God  
and forfeiting blessings —

Let's make it a matter  
of prayer