

*"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:24 (ESV)*



10. Faith without giving is dead.

11. Giving changes me.

12. I will be tested to rob God.

6. Should Christians tithe?

7. How is God calling me to respond?

1. What if I am giving nothing?
2. What if I am tipping God, not tithing to God?
3. What if I am already tithing or giving beyond a tithe?

#### Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. **Read Malachi 3:8; Mark 12:41-44; Matthew 25:31-46.** What does Jesus teach about giving?
2. What does a lack of tithing likely demonstrate about someone's true feelings toward God?
3. **Read Malachi 3:11.** What does this tell us about God's power over life? How does this change the way we respond to unexpected financial trials? When it comes to financial success, who deserves the credit?
4. **Read Matthew 6:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15.** Make a list of 5 to 10 principles these verses teach us about giving to God.
5. After this study, what changes to your regular giving is God prompting you to make? Why are you making those changes?

## Malachi 3:6-12 – How Can I Rob God?

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1. God loves us. He won't leave us. No matter what we have done, we can return to him.

*"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 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?' Malachi 3:6-7 (ESV)*

2. Not giving to God is robbing God.

*Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. Malachi 3:8 (ESV)*

- A tithe means ten percent of someone's income.
- A contribution is also called an offering. It is a special gift for a special need above and beyond a tithe.

3. God cursed his people when they wouldn't give.

*You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Malachi 3:9 (ESV)*

*You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. Haggai 1:6-7 (ESV)*

“But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you. Leviticus 26:14–17 (ESV)

#### **4. God promised to bless his people when they gave.**

*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:10-11 (ESV)*

#### **5. What else does the Bible tell us about giving?**

##### **1. God is more concerned about the size of the sacrifice than the size of the gift.**

*And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” Mark 12:41–44 (ESV)*

##### **2. God blesses givers based on the generosity of their giving.**

*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV)*

##### **3. We are to give proportionate to our income.**

*For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. 2 Corinthians 8:12 (ESV)*

##### **4. We are to give voluntarily and joyfully.**

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)*

##### **5. We give with confidence that God will take care of our needs.**

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)*

##### **6. Everyone is to regularly give to God.**

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (ESV)*

##### **7. If we don't give, we are not just robbing God. We are robbing ourselves.**

*give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38 (ESV)*

##### **8. Giving opens the door to accomplishing greater things for God's kingdom.**

*If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? Luke 16:11 (ESV)*

##### **9. Giving writes our autobiography.**