

Malachi 3:6-15
Crook: Robbing God

Introduction (Verses 6-7a, 13-15):

1. God does not Change
2. Everything Changes and is Changing in this World
3. But Some things Are Constant: Creation is Subject to Futility (**Romans 8**) & We Battle a Sin Nature
4. Sin: To Reject the True Treasure of Heaven, Seeing No Profit in Serving the Lord
5. Sin: To Expect God to Be in Your Debt because You have Been Good and Moral (**The Elder brother in the Prodigal Son**)
6. Even God's People will Sin in these Ways
7. But God in His Loving, Tender Mercy will Chastise and Draw them back to Himself through Repentance

Main Idea of the Text:

God loves His people as His very treasure. Therefore, He will call out to them to repent, chastise them for their sin, and promise a covenant of overwhelming blessing when they return to Him.

God's Calling (Verse 7b-c)

1. Return To Me, Says the Lord (**Verse 7b**)
2. What Does Man Do when He Sins? Runs and Hides
3. But God Pursues in His Love
4. Holy Spirit will Convict the Heart of Sin to Repent and Return to the God of Grace and Forgiveness
5. God is not Presented like a Condemning Judge in this Text, but a Loving and Grieving Father
6. God is not presented like a Drill Sergeant in this Text who says Try Harder, But a Loving God who says by Faith Come Home to Me
7. The Problem: Arrogant, Stiff-Necked Man sees the Riches of this World as More Precious than the Richness of God (**Verse 7c**)
8. Anesthetized to God's Voice, His Word; Drifted Away from God & Unaware God is Not Present

9. The Warning Passages are Precious – They wake us up from Sin and Slumber to Serve the Kingdom

God's Chastening (Verses 8-9)

1. God Lays the Finger on the Matter: You love your Money More Than Your God! You Rob Me!
2. **The Tithe**: One Tenth of All Income (**Leviticus 27; Numbers 18, 22**)
3. The Tribe of Levi: Forbidden to Have Land, Depended on the Tithe for Food and Goods
4. Also Promoted the Care of the Temple: Priestly Duties
5. Also Helped with the Ministries to the Poor (**Deut 26**)
6. Token to Acknowledge God Owns it All & Thankfulness God has Given Us What We Have
7. Greed: Excess Concern for Money and Possessions
 - a. Blindness to this Sin: Not like other sins
 - b. Money has the Power to Blind and Control
8. The New Testament Never Commands Tithe 10%, but to Give Cheerfully in Proportion to Your Earnings
 - a. **Lk 11:42, 1 Cor 16:2, 2 Cor 8:3, 8-9, 9:6-7**
 - b. Giving with Wrong Motives: Legalistic, Guilt, Under Compulsion, Lazy, Presumption
 - c. The Tithe is the Minimum Gift

God's Covenant (Verses 10-12)

1. The Storehouse: The Temple (Lit. *The Treasury*)
2. Worship God in the Place of Worship with Your Treasure
3. What is Your True Temple? Where Your Treasure is, there Your Heart will be also
4. Test Me: Only Place in Scripture God does not Forbid, and I will Bless You Publicly
5. No One Ever Did or Has – Only Jesus, who made us His Purchased Treasure - We Give Because He Gave!