

"Robbing God and Rotting Grapes" Malachi 3:6-12

Fifth Dispute

CALL: Return to Me (6,7)

- *"For" is best taken as causal: The nation survives because God is constant. God doesn't change, which is a good for fickle folks (Js. 1:17, I Sam. 15:29).
- *"Return" (3x) to God so He can turn back to you (Zech. 1:3, Isa. 55:77).

COMPLAINT: Don't rob Me (8-10a)

- *OT tithe = lit. 1/10th. (Lev. 27:30-32, Dt. 12:6, 14:28,29 plus other gifts)
- *Not giving is worse than it may appear: "Robbing ME" (2x) "MY house" "to rob" = *snatch, plunder, steal, seize*
- *What connections hadn't the people made about giving?

CHALLENGE: Just test Me (10b-12)

- *"Test" usually has God as the subject; and to "test" God is not a good thing (Deut. 6:16, Mtt. 4:7). Here God gladly invites testing!
- *God's point here: You can't out-give Me. . . If you give Me what little I ask for, I'll dump the blessings on you!

CONCLUSIONS: What about me?

Can my fellowship with God be affected by my giving?

Does quantity matter?

Does not giving bring a curse / giving bring super blessing?