



Living a Life of Blessing #3 | September 25, 2016

Icebreaker: Have you ever had anything stolen from you? What happened?

READ MALACHI 3:6-18.

1. What does God's plea for His people to return to Him tell you about Him? What does this mean to you?
2. In Malachi 3:8-9, God makes a shocking accusation. How does He feel about it?
3. Why would God consider failing to give Him tithes and offerings robbing Him? What does that tell us about the way we look at Him and our money?

Read Matthew 6:21:

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

4. How does our treasure reflect our heart?
5. What is the main problem with God's people refusing to give their wealth to Him (Malachi 3:10)?
6. Why do we find it difficult to trust God as our Provider?
7. What will all people (eventually) call God's people (Malachi 3:12)?
8. In 3:16, Malachi speaks of *those who fear the Lord and esteem His name*. What does it mean to fear the Lord?

HOPE

9. What hope does Malachi offer those who fear His name in Malachi 4:2?

Jesus comes

- to give light and truth where there was darkness and confusion,
- to set things right where they were wrong,
- to give healing where there was sickness and brokenness,
- to give freedom where there was bondage,
- and to give calf-like joy where there was dreariness and fear.

Pastor John Piperⁱ

10. For a fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6. read Luke 1:13, 16-17. What was John the Baptist preparing a people for?

HOW ABOUT YOU?

11. As we discussed last week from Romans 12:1-2, turning toward God means offering Him our entire selves. How is it possible for someone who claims to follow Jesus not to give toward God's causes?

12. How has God blessed you as you give financially? How have those blessings affected your relationship with God?

13. Is there anything you'd like to change about your giving? If so, what?

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER THIS WEEK?

Next week: 2 Peter 1:1-15.

desiringgod.org/messages/the-sun-of-righteousness-will-rise