



BLESSED TO GIVE – PART 2 ROBBING GOD?

MALACHI 3:7-9

Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

THE TITHE BELONGS TO GOD

LEVITICUS 27:30

"**A tithe of everything** from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, **belongs to the Lord**; it is holy to the Lord."

God's people didn't GIVE a tithe. The Old Testament talks about "bringing" a tithe or "presenting" a tithe or even "repaying" a tithe. But they did not give it. Because it didn't belong to them. It belonged to God.

MALACHI 3:8-10

⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

¹⁰ **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse**, that there may be food in my house.

God's people were keeping for themselves what they knew belonged to Him.

BRING THE FIRSTFRUITS

PROVERBS 3:9-10

Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

For God's people in the Old Testament,

- **Tithe** was the amount of the regular offering
- **Firstfruits** was the nature of the offering

SEE WHAT GOD DOES

MALACHI 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this,**" says the Lord Almighty, **"and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."**

God invites us to see how He responds (with abundant blessing!) to our obedient giving.