

Today's Scripture Passage: *Malachi 3:1-4, 8-10, 4:1-6*

¹ "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. ² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. 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 you will not have room enough for it.

¹ "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. ³ Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the Lord Almighty. ⁴ "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Do you live as though it's better to give than to receive? If not, what keeps you from doing so?
2. What do you find it easy to spend my money on? What does that say about your heart's treasure? What do you attempt to buy that only God can give you?
3. How does God's grace make us generous? *Reflect on 2 Corinthians 8:8-9.*
4. Does your giving cut into your lifestyle? When was the last time your generosity toward the poor caused you to feel some of the burden of their poverty?
5. Is God speaking to your heart about your giving habits? If so, what is He saying? How will you respond to Him? What needs to change?

For Further Reading:

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 1 Timothy 6; Luke 16; Luke 12:15-21; Matthew 6:19-34
- The Treasure Principle (Randy Alcorn)
- Generosity (Gordon MacDonald)
- Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger (Ron Sider)

Prayer Prompts:

- Everything I have is a gift from you. I am a steward of the wealth, gifts and opportunities you've given me.
- Help me to be content with having only what I need.
- Let your generous grace and mercy flow not just *into* my life, but *through* it.