

“I Cannot Give”

Malachi 3:6-12

Malachi 3:6-12

- “For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. 7 Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, Says the LORD of hosts. But you said, In what way shall we return? 8 Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, Says the LORD of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, Says the LORD of hosts; 12 And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land, Says the LORD of hosts.”

“I Cannot Give”

- Giving is a very personal application of an individual Christian's faith.
- Neither the scriptures nor the church enforces a standard on anyone. Each disciple determines the amount in his or her heart.
- Giving is a strong indicator of one's spirituality easily subject to self-examination and correction

“I Cannot Give”

- Giving is not a financial necessity for God; His cause will prosper without your offering
 - Psalm 50:12 - “If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.”
 - Psalm 24:1 - “The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.”
 - Like prayer, giving is for our benefit, not God’s
- Giving is about stewardship; God already owns everything; we are returning a portion for His service
 - He views those who do not give their due as thieves and embezzlers

“I Cannot Give”

- Why should Christians give as they have prospered?
 - It honors the principle of giving in God’s word.
 - It honors God who created us and given us all we enjoy
 - It helps us to overcome greed and covetousness
 - It helps us to think responsibly about what we have
 - It gives us an opportunity to prove our commitment to God
 - It gives others an opportunity to glorify God by means of our generosity

Matt. 6:25-33 - "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

“I Can’t Afford To Give”

- “If I give to God, I cannot pay my bills.”
- “There isn’t very much at all left over after I meet my obligations. It is a sin not to pay my bills.”
 - Rom. 13:8 - “Owe no one anything except to love one another”

“I Can’t Afford To Give”

- Those in this condition have contracted two spiritual troubles:
 - They have placed their loyalty in the wrong place; God comes first every time, regardless of what they think or believe
 - They have underestimated the power of God in seeing them through; they think that giving to God is financially irresponsible, and that they are solely responsible for their financial solubility

“I Can’t Afford To Give”

- “Things and stuff” are the weapons Satan uses against Christians.
- Jesus demands that we choose
 - Matt. 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

“I Can't Afford To Give”

- 1John 2:15-17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

“I Can’t Afford To Give”

- God promises to bless those who put Him first.
- We reap what we sow
 - Gal. 6:6-8 - “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

“I Can’t Afford To Give”

- We reap more than we sow.
- We reap in proportion to our sowing.
- We reap after we sow
 - Gal. 6:9 - “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”
 - Mal. 3:10 - “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.”

“The Church Doesn’t Need It”

- “The church doesn’t need as much as it gets; they have money in the bank.”
- The one who gives, gives to the Lord, not to the church.

“The Church Doesn’t Need It”

- Neh. 13:10-14 - “I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field. 11 So I contended with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together and set them in their place. 12 Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse. 13 And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouse Shelemiah the priest and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah; and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered faithful, and their task was to distribute to their brethren. 14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for its services!”

“The Church Doesn’t Need It”

- Christians must give to have a share in the work of the Lord in the local church
 - 1Tim. 3:15 - “But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
 - Acts 4:37 - “Having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.”
 - 1Cor. 16:2 - “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

“I Don’t Approve Of How The Offerings Are Spent”

- When one makes an offering, he gives it to God. The elders are His stewards in its use and distribution.
- Once an offering is given, it is no longer in the control of the giver.
- We are to give, and once we have done so, our responsibility in the matter ends, and the elders’ begins.
- If we do not give, God will hold us accountable. If the elders misuse the offering, God will hold them accountable.

“I Cannot Give”

- Our spirit in giving will reflect the condition of our heart
 - Matt. 6:19-21 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”