

## The Minor Prophets “The Twelve”

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi

Prophetic Ministry: 800 – 430 B.C.

## Malachi

*“Return to Me and I will Return to You”*

### Spiritual Climate:

- over time the people have departed from the Lord; they have grown callous and casual toward God; lost their fear and awe of Him
- specific behavior:
  - defiled worship
  - treacherous behavior (marriages)
  - robbing God

## “Robbing God”

### 1. The Indictment

- “robbing God” – staggering!
  - How? – in the tithes and offerings; required giving to support the temple, priests, and poor
  - Why is this robbing God? – because God owns the tithe
- *offerings are not given by their owners to God, but given to their owner who is God!*

## “Robbing God”

### 2. The Consequences

- They were “cursed” – God had sent drought and a “devourer” on their land
- They were not getting ahead financially by withholding the tithes and offerings
  - Self-perpetuating trap – can’t afford to give; not giving is the source of their economic hardship

## “Robbing God”

### 3. The Remedy

- “Bring the whole tithe” – marks their return to God and results in covenant blessings
  - Why is returning to the Lord expressed in terms of giving?
- *few things reveal the true nature of the heart and one’s relationship to the Lord like giving*
- “for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”

## “Robbing God”

### Application:

- Our giving and handling of finances speaks volumes about our relationship to the Lord

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*Not the point of application: a failure to tithe (give 10% of our income) is robbing God*

- there is no abiding regulation that requires believers to give “the tithe”
- cannot be reduced to percentages or legal obligations; an issue of the heart

## **“Robbing God”**

### **Application:**

- **Why do people fail to give abundantly and sacrificially to the Lord?**
- 1. **They love the pleasures and comforts that money can buy more than they love the honor of God and the advancement of His kingdom**
  - **Their love is set on the world not on eternity**
  - **You cannot serve God and riches**

## **“Robbing God”**

### **Application:**

- **Why do people fail to give abundantly and sacrificially to the Lord?**
  - 2. **They trust their material possessions more than they trust the ability of God to meet their needs**
    - **their faith is set on themselves**
    - **giving is a demonstration of our dependence on God; should always honor God *first!***
- ***He calls us to “test Him” in the area of giving***