

THE FATHER HEART OF GOD

(The Book of Malachi)

desert breeze
community church

Saturday & Sunday, Dec 21/22, 2019 Ray Davis



“Be Generous to Him” Malachi 3:1-18

You can give without loving but you can't love without giving (John 3:16; Rom5:8). Thesis: Because we are generously loved by God, we will love generously both God and others. Normal Christianity is love philanthropy—receiving so much love from God that you recklessly give it away without expecting anything in return.

How Are We Generously Loved by God?

They were trying God's patience and questioning His justice (fairness v17). God's Response to their failure to love, worship, listen and be faithful to Him:

- First: by sending the messenger (John the Baptist) who will prepare the way for the LORD. V1a; Isa40:3; Matt3:1-3; 11:7-10
- Second: by sending the messenger of the covenant (Jesus). v1b; Matt21:12; 26:26-28; Matt3:11-12
- Third: His 1st coming will be to bear our judgement (vv2-4) and His 2nd coming will be to bring judgement (v5).

So, what's the point of all of this? Luke 2:10-11

How Will We Love Generously Both God and Others?

- By Returning to God. v6
- By Giving to God. vv7c, 8, 10; Luke11:42

Our lack of generosity...

- ✓ Robs God vv7-8; 1Chron29:12; Acts17:25
- ✓ Robs ourselves vv9-11
- ✓ Robs others v12

- By Being Blessed by God. vv9-11

- ✓ God warns of a curse. v9
- ✓ God invites a test. v10b
- ✓ It is a matter of trust.

Final thoughts: If you want God's blessing in any area of your life, you better move to a position He can bless (vv10-11). Whatever you give up obeying God is nothing compared to what you will gain (vv13-15). God's Blessings far exceeds material blessings (vv16-18).

Growing Notes

- 1) You can give without loving but you can't love without giving. Explain. How is this evidenced in God (John3:16; Rom5:8)? Because we are generously loved by God, we will love generously both God and others. How does God's love turn us into Love Philanthropists?
- 2) Read Malachi 3:1-18. Do a quick Observation (What does it say?), Interpretation (What does it mean?), and Application (How do I apply it to my life?).
- 3) How are we generously loved by God (vv1-5)? How does God send people into our lives (Like John the Baptist) to prepare the way of the Lord (v1a)? Christianity doesn't send advisors (like all other religions) it sends an advocate Savior (Luke2:10-11). Explain. How does Jesus' 1st and 2nd coming show us that He is both Justifier and Judge (vv2-5; Rom3:26)?
- 4) How Will We Love Generously Both God and Others (vv6-18)? What does it mean to return to God (vv6-7)? How does our lack of generosity Rob God (vv7-8), Rob ourselves (vv9-11) and Rob others (v12)? God warns of a curse (v9), invites a test (v10b), and helps us see that our generosity is a matter of trust. Explain. What is God speaking to you through this teaching? Pray.