

Money Matters 101

Quarterly Study

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE FOR STUDY 5

Robbing God

Are you robbing God?

God wants to minister to our nation and our world in many wonderful ways, yet he chooses to work through the obedience and generosity of his children. The purpose of this study is to awaken a desire for obedience and generosity in our hearts. To have a life that counts, we must stop robbing God and start giving generously.

Lesson# 5

Scripture:

Malachi 3:7-12

Based on:

"Living a Life That Counts" Series Builder by Bryan Wilkerson, PREACHING TODAY SERMONS



PART 1

Identify the Current Issue

Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets and ministered during a time of moral and spiritual apathy in the nation of Israel. The first two chapters confront the resulting sin—blemished sacrifices, adultery, and idolatry—but the third chapter contains God's call to repentance and promise of forgiveness and restoration.

PART 2

Discover the Eternal Principles

Teaching point one: When we fail to give God what he asks of us, we are robbing him.

Teaching point two: Israelites who didn't bring tithes and offerings were robbing God in the same way as a person who steals money out of the collection plate.

- [Q]** With which statement do you find yourself agreeing most:
- 1) I can't afford to give away a tenth of my income.
 - 2) Giving away a tenth of my income is nothing. I should be giving more.
 - 3) I can't afford to give a tenth of my income, but I'd like to trust God with that insecurity.
 - 4) I would have to make too many sacrifices to give away a tenth of my income.

Teaching point three: Christians today need to give a proportional percentage of their income.

PART 3

Apply Your Findings

If you're not in the habit of giving regularly to your church and other needs, it's time to start. If you have been giving but sense it's less than God desires, prayerfully consider what he's asking you to do. If you want to live a life that counts, you have to give sacrificially.

- [Q]** Considering this lesson, what needs to change about your giving? Begin to take steps in that direction this week.

—By Bryan Wilkerson, with JoHannah Reardon

