



**Series: The Minor Prophets**

**Lesson: 62. Malachi, pt. 3 – Tithes**

**Reveal Hearts**

**Passage: Mal. 3:7–4:6**

- Israel is \_\_\_\_\_ Poorly. (3:7–12)
  - God elaborates on two areas where they ‘left’ a pure faith and need to ‘return.’
  - Earlier, God addressed the quality of their offerings; now He addresses the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Withholding what should be devoted for God’s service is really \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
    - Tithes were meant to take care of the Levites and the needy in society (cf. Deut. 14:28–29).
    - When they weren’t there, \_\_\_\_\_ needs couldn’t be met.

*Neh. 13:10–11 – I also discovered that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, each to his own field. <sup>11</sup>So I reprimanded the officials and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts.*

- God says they need to trust that He will \_\_\_\_\_.
- Not only will He bless their obedience; their struggles are because of their disobedience (cf. Deut. 28).
- God wants the nation's blessings to be obvious to the rest of the world so He is glorified!
  
- How do we apply this today?
- The Church is not obligated to tithe like Israel, BUT God still expects us to use our physical blessings to support His work.
- We are not under the Old Covenant, BUT God does still provide blessings/chastisements according to our hearts and deeds.

• **Israel Is \_\_\_\_\_ Poorly. (3:13–15).**

- They say that is \_\_\_\_\_ to serve God.
- Because they're not getting what they want from doing religious acts, they think it's useless.
  
- They assume \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't matter because they see the wicked escape unpunished.
- Just because we don't see wickedness punished doesn't mean God doesn't do it.

- We don't have an excuse to doubt God when things don't work out the way we think they should.

- **God Will \_\_\_\_\_ Perfectly. (3:16–4:6).**

- The response to this lack of faith was for the righteous to get together and \_\_\_\_\_ one another.
- Their faith is \_\_\_\_\_.
- God will make the difference between the righteous and unrighteous obvious by sparing His people on the day of judgment.
  - Both the 'arrogant' and the 'evildoer' will be 'set ablaze.'
  - The righteous will not only escape judgment, but actually rejoice!
- The ones who follow the Law will be the ones who rejoice instead of burn.
- The Old Testament ends on the prediction about Elijah.
  - There is a near fulfilment in John the Baptist, but there is a far fulfilment yet to come.

*Matt. 17:10–13 – And His disciples asked Him, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” <sup>11</sup>And He answered and said, “Elijah is coming and will restore all things; <sup>12</sup>but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” <sup>13</sup>Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.*

- Repentance must be preached before the Day of the Lord so that some repent and are spared in order for at least some of Creation to be redeemed.

### **What Do We Do with This Text?**

1. Be faithful in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Don't try to \_\_\_\_\_ God.
3. Define \_\_\_\_\_ the way God does.

**Blanks:** Giving, quantity, robbing, spiritual, provide, Worshipping, vain, obedience, Distinguish, encourage, recognized, giving, manipulate, yourself