

Longview Baptist Temple
Sunday School Lesson
January 11, 2009



=SAIL ON THE STEWARDSHIP=

Will A Man Rob God?
Malachi 3:8, 9

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is hard to believe that one would rob God.
2. We pick up the newspaper and read "Bank Robbed", "Convenient Store Robbed", "J.C. Penney Co. Robbed", "Scam Pulled on Elderly Couple \$1,000 Taken", "Teenagers Steal Car".
3. The average Christian's reaction to robbery:
 - a. "That lowdown thief, I hope they catch him and he gets 10 years.
 - b. That "robber" ought to get the electric chair.
 - c. Those scam operators ought to be beaten for robbing those "old folks", etc.
4. Sunday after Sunday robbery is committed at God's House – The Church – by God's people.
 - a. The withholding of tithes and offerings.
5. The average Christian's reaction to – "God Robbers":
 - a. I need the money for food, clothes, car, home, etc.
 - b. All the Preacher talks about is money, etc.

POINT OF CONTACT: We are critical of those who rob from the world, yet take lightly those who "rob God."

- I. **WILL A MAN ROB GOD?** Could the robber be a Christian? Christ referred to certain robbers as climbing up some other way. Tithe evaders stand in bad light before God.
 - A. It is Hard to Believe. A Christian man, one who loves God, one who is interested in spreading the Gospel, one who prays and expects God to hear him, evading God's taxes. Really, would such a man evade paying his taxes to God?
 - B. Yet Ye Have Robbed Me. God had been good to Israel, He had blessed them in many ways. They had seen His mighty hand divide the Red Sea and the Jordan. They had been delivered by His mighty hand from the unmerciful taskmasters of Egypt and had seen nations fall before Him. But in all this, Israel evaded paying tithes.
 - C. The Treasury of the Church is Robbed Today. People have turned to the world, spent their money for pleasure trips and other such enjoyments that the world has to offer them. God's tenth is being misappropriated; spent for such things as satisfy the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. The Church Treasury is being robbed.
- II. **GOD IS ROBBED IN OTHER WAYS BY CHRISTIANS FAILING TO PAY TITHES AND OFFERINGS.**
When tithes and offerings fail to come into the treasury of the Lord, it not only means an empty treasury, it means an empty life, an empty church, an empty ministry, an empty heaven.
 - A. God is Robbed of the Heathen. If the people had paid their tithes and offerings, missionaries could have been sent to the dark benighted lands. Men and women who feel their call to the mission fields could have delivered their souls. Heathen who are living in bondage, superstition, and fear could have been liberated. They, too, could be enjoying the benefits of this great salvation. They would not have to burn in hell. They could have enjoyed heaven throughout all eternity. But God has been robbed.
 - B. The Sinner is Robbed. He could have heard the Gospel, if the tithes and offerings had been turned into the treasury. Ye have robbed God and the sinner may forever be lost.
 - C. The Pulpit is Robbed. That man who feels his call to preach the Gospel could have been sent. He would not have been forced to take a job, or go into business, that his family might have bread. He could have delivered his soul, and at the same time delivered many other souls.
 - D. A Man Might Rob God and Be Saved. Men can rob God and belong to the church. They might evade paying tithes and get to Heaven. But the Lord's cause will certainly suffer loss, and the man who fails to pay will at least miss a good part of his reward.

III. **SEVERAL REASONS WHY PEOPLE “ROB GOD.”**

- A. You don't tithe because of unbelief – you don't believe God's Word – He'll provide.
- B. You love the things of the world.
- C. You don't give because of pride.

IV. **DON'T BE A “GOD ROBBER”.**

- a. Pay God the 10% - Tithe.
- b. Give God an offering – above the Tithe.
- c. It will make you feel good to Tithe.
- d. You will receive a blessing – guaranteed by God!

CONCLUSION: Don't forget – it all belongs to God. Give God the tithe; don't make Him have to take it from you. Be honored that the Lord would trust you with the tithe.