

MALACHI: RETURN TO ME | ROBBING GOD
MALACHI 3:6-12

The Israelites were in a bad place, and they disrespectfully questioned God. They questioned God's love (Malachi 1:2). They questioned God's value and had disrespected Him by bringing dishonorable sacrifices (1:8). They questioned God's design for marriage, and they had disobeyed His direction in their marital life (1:11,14). And they had wearied God by questioning His goodness and justice (2:17). God called them to recognize their sinfulness and return to Him, but they did not believe they had left God. Instead, they believed God had left them. God would point out that they robbed Him, instead of Him robbing them. They were the thieves. He would challenge them through the prophet to make things right with Him. Although this is written to Israel, should this passage cause us to examine ourselves? Are there giving principles we can learn from this passage and if so, what are they?

1. A person's decisions on how he or she handles their _____ reflect their _____ to God.
2. God had principles for giving for _____ and has principles of _____ for the church. He desires us to _____ His principles.
3. Failure to follow God's principles lead to _____, while following His principles lead to _____.