Study Notes ©Naomi's Table 2017

Lesson 6: Robbing God

Malachi 3:6-18
Teacher: Beth Seifert

The people of Malachi's time thought that they were justified in withholding what God had commanded them to give back to Him. Read Luke 12:15-21. What does Jesus tell us one's life does NOT consist of? What warning is He giving in the parable He shares? How were the people of Malachi's time storing up for themselves?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What does Paul tell Timothy we should be content with? What is the danger for those who desire wealth?

Read Matthew 21:12-13. What problem does Jesus address here? Has much changed from Malachi's day until the day Jesus does this?

Read Matthew 6:19-21. What does Jesus remind us is the problem with treasures on earth? What treasure should we strive for? Ultimately, what does that say about our focus?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. According to this letter, how should we give? Is there a set percentage? What is promised to us when we give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, but cheerfully? Do you see anything in this passage promising that you will have wealth beyond what you can imagine? Read verses 9-11. Who provides the bounty? What will be increased? For what purpose?

Read Romans 6:12-13. What should we present ourselves for? Why?

Read Romans 12:1-2. What kind of sacrifice are we to offer? In what way are we to be transformed? In this, we will be able to do what?

Read John 10:25-30. Can those who truly belong to Christ ever be taken from Him? Who is it that secures this?

Read Romans 11:1-7. Paul reminds the readers in Rome that God has always preserved a remnant of faithful people for Himself, even in the darkest times. Paul then tells the readers there is still a remnant, chosen by what process? What did the corporate group of Israel fail to do, even while the remnant succeeded?

As you spend time with God today, consider a few things. Ask God to help you to consider whether you have been a cheerful giver, or a reluctant giver, and ask Him to help you to make the changes necessary to honor Him with your resources.

Remember, this isn't just your finances, but your time, your ability, your very lives. Thank God for His faithful preservation of a remnant of faithful people, that we might know that He is who He says He is, and that we might also know that it is not by works that we are justified, but by faith.

Thank Him for holding you fast to Him, knowing that He is the one who has secured your faith, and because of that, it is completely secure. Thank God for all that He has done on your behalf, and ask Him to help you not only to avoid offering yourself as an instrument to wickedness, but ask Him to help you to offer yourself, cheerfully and without compulsion, to Him, daily, as His instrument of righteousness to a lost and dying world.