
Sermon Series: A Matter of the Heart

Giving With All My Heart

Malachi 1:6-14 (NIV)

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name."

"But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?'

⁷You place defiled food on my altar."

"But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?'

By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. ⁸When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty.

⁹"Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"--says the Lord Almighty.

¹⁰"Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the Lord Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands. ¹¹My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty.

¹²"But you profane it by saying of the Lord's table, 'It is defiled,' and of its food, 'It is contemptible.' ¹³And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the Lord Almighty.

"When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the Lord.

¹⁴"Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the Lord Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations."

1. MY GIVING REFLECTS MY HEART FOR GOD.

v. 8 *"When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong?..."*

Leviticus 1:3 (NIV) *"If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to offer a male without defect. He must present it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting so that it will be acceptable to the Lord."*

- When I give less than my best, it speaks volumes to God.
- Half-hearted giving reveals half-hearted commitment.
- Giving with the wrong heart brings rejection from God.

v. 10c *"...I am not pleased with you,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and I will accept no offering from your hands.'"*

2. TO HONOR GOD I MUST GIVE MY VERY BEST.

1 Peter 2:5 (NASB-U)

You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- We are to give God the very best we have.
- What I give to God is seen by Him as my sacrifice to Him.
- I can offer no greater gift to God than my whole-hearted self.

Romans 12:1 (MsgB)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

3. OTHERS MAY BE IMPRESSED WITH MY GIFT, BUT GOD KNOWS MY HEART.

Luke 16:13-15 (NIV)

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."

When my heart is in the right place...

- My gift will be pleasing to the Lord regardless of the size.
- My gift will bring joy to my life, not regret or reluctance.
- My gift will be used to further the Kingdom of God.

Giving to God with all my heart insures that I am offering the best that I have to God so that I can remain faithful and God's Kingdom is advanced