



bloodline network newsletter

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THE UNDERHANDED

*"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have **ROBBED** Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. **MALACHI 3:8-10***

The tithe came from the nation of Israel but the offering (literally **HEAVE** offering) referred to the priest's portion of the tithe. God questioned the priests about why they withheld the tithe and offering—why they were robbers.

God also questioned their **INTEGRITY**. The priest offered up blemished sacrifices—something that was forbidden. God challenged them to offer their governors the same gifts offered to Him—dared them to defraud their rulers of their due and see if they would get away with it.

If we withhold from paying taxes we **DEFRAUD** the government. That's the state of affairs He used to illustrate that withholding our tithes and offerings **ROBBED** Him.

THE HEAVE OFFERING

*And from the ram of the consecration you (Aaron) shall consecrate the breast of the wave offering which is waved, and the thigh of the **HEAVE** offering which is raised, of that which is for Aaron and of that which is for his sons... a statute forever. For it is a **HEAVE OFFERING**; it shall be a heave offering from the children of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, that is, their heave offering to the Lord. **EXODUS 29: 26-28***

The **HEAVE OFFERING** was given to the priest as their portion of the tithe. It was an emblem of Israel lifting up their heart and soul—their hands serving and worshiping God.

= **ROBBING GOD**

You who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

ROMANS 2:21

Israel learned to abhor idolatry from the punishment that followed them in the wilderness after the gold calf event. Robbing idols for any reason, including its 'material' value was forbidden. Yet Paul called their hypocrisy the same sin as 'robbing temples' because the priesthood committed sacrilege against the temple—they converted God's Law for their own benefit.

Under the pretence of long prayers the priesthood "*devoured widows' houses*"—helpless widows gave priests their fortunes in hope that their families would be saved—the more they gave the longer the priest prayed. The Levitical priesthood polluted worship with their purpose—they wanted to make more money.

Jesus called the priesthood '*greedy dogs*.' They promised to pray but implied the greater the amount of money given, the more it swayed God to act in their behalf—they mocked God's purpose. Paul charged the priesthood with hypocrisy saying, "*For the Name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.*"

= PRIESTS STOLE TITHE

I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field. So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their place.

NEHEMIAH 13:10-11

Jesus said, "*Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*" What we give to God is already His. The sin of the people was that they did not give 'all' the tithe—withholding some of it was stealing.

But the priests also stole the tithe. They STOLE from God by withholding it from the Levites. The office of priesthood distributed the tithe, but instead they kept it for themselves. That meant the Levites and singers couldn't support their families and had to find work elsewhere—they abandoned the work of the temple.

The restoration of the tithe in Nehemiah's day was a precursor to restoring the House of God.

= LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it ROBBERY to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

Christ Jesus had the same divine nature and essence of God. To be ‘in the form of God’ and ‘equal with God’ signified the same thing.

Jesus knew He was equal to God—knew all authority was available for the asking; a gift of the Father. Authority is of God—He is not divided or less if He gives it to us.

Jesus didn’t STEAL anything from God—it was already in Him. He was the manifestation of God and declared to be the Son of God. That’s why His Word healed the sick ... fed thousands ... caused demons to flee ... and raised the dead back to life. Jesus is the power/authority of God.

Although Jesus is God in man, He was obedient by submitting to Divine Purpose. If we have the mind of Christ, we likewise can face anything with the same mindset: “*Not my will but Yours be done.*” Let the mind of Christ be in you.

= **BUT THE DEVIL IS A ROBBER**

... Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

MATTHEW 4:8-9

The devil USURPED God's authority by implying that God had delivered the kingdoms into his hands—making the line of succession through the devil. The devil is a robber and thief. Jesus could easily refuse what the devil offered. Jesus lacked nothing—He had His Father’s authority.

When Our Father spoke, “*This is my Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased,*” it was a witness to the disciples of who Jesus is—not a confirmation to Jesus. Jesus already knew He was the Son of God.

= **DOOR TO THE SHEEPFOLD**

Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. .. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly

JOHN 10

Our tithe is the acknowledgment that everything is His. We steal what is not ours if we withhold our tithe. Thieves and robbers are transgressors of the law—they steal what is not theirs.

God does not need our tithes. Whatever we withhold from paying our tithes reveals our deceptiveness and lack of trust—our SNEAKINESS. It’s not God’s loss that He’s concerned about but rather how it affects our character.

God’s Body is mature and walks in integrity, virtue, and righteousness. We tithe ten percent of all our possessions—God counts it as giving one hundred percent. Our tithe is

a down payment of belief that God owns the cattle on all the hills and all that we have is His. In turn He blesses us with ninety percent.

= **NAILED IT TO THE CROSS**

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of the your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. COLOSIAINS 2:13-14

God judges the intent of our hearts. We rob God when we fail to tithe on our increase—and we break covenant with our God. If this happened, we actually removed ourselves from receiving the blessing. That means we are “*cursed with a curse, for you have robbed (God).*”

The answer is simple—“*bring all the tithes to the storehouse*” and His blessing is returned in abundance. “*Try me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.*”

Coming into proper order does not mean we owe Him for our past sins, nor does He tally the tithes we withheld. The moment we come into proper order means we make amends by setting our accounts in order—giving God the tithe. He makes up the difference—and the slate of past offences is wiped clean.

= **WE MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT**

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. HEBREWS 4:11-13

God knows if we withhold from Him—if we deliberately steal what is His. If we say we love God but put what is His (our heave offering, our tithe) back in our pockets we are demonstrating our u UNDERHANDEDNESS.

Nothing we do is ever hidden from God. We can say we love God, but our faith is demonstrated by our actions. We tithe because we choose “*to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength*”—only He counts ten percent as “all.” We cannot out give God—we give our TOKEN and He blesses us with the remaining ninety percent.

If we accept who we are in Christ, we ACCEPT the truth. If we accept truth we align to what God commands. We follow Christ. That’s why Jesus likens us to sheep—not thieves and robbers. “*You ... are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to*

offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” A sign of our integrity is that we seek to do all His will.

Roger and Karen Roth are the set ministry of a local church in Northeastern Wisconsin. They are a ministry son of Dr. Hanby, and along with writing the Bloodline articles each month, they are directors of a portion of Dr. Hanby's ministry called THE FATHER'S HEART.

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