

## LESSONS IN GIVING

Lesson XI. Malachi 1 : 6-11 and 3 : 8-12—Memory Verses, Ch. 3 : 10 December 10, 1899

6 A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master : if then I *be* a father, where is mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on my altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name

shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Ch. 3. 8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruits before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

Malachi was the last prophet God sent to the Jewish people before the time of Jesus Christ.

Men like Daniel and Ezra and Nehemiah

had warned the people before, and over and over again, of what they must do to please God, but still they disobeyed. So at last God sent Malachi to give them another chance to change their ways.

The strange part of it all was that the people did not think they had done anything wrong. They said, "What have we done?"

So Malachi had to show them.

Now one of God's commandments was that they should give back to Him part of what they had—some of their sheep, part of their money and their wine and their oil and their fruit. To do this was just one way of saying "Thank you" to God for all His goodness.

But the people were mean and wicked, and picked out the blind sheep, and the lame and sick cows, and the smallest, sourest fruit and sent these off to the Temple, and kept all that was good for themselves. They gave none of their money to the priests, so that, instead of being able to teach the people in God's house, these men had to leave their work to earn a living some other way.

