

LESSON XI.

LESSONS IN GIVING

December 10, 1899

Malachi 1: 6-11; 3: 8-12. Commit to memory ch. 3: 10. Read Mal. 1, and 2 Cor. 8 and 9

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? and if 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 mine 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 fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

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

Revised Version—1 And when . . . It is no evil; 2 Present; 3 Will he accept; 4 Intreat the favour of God, that he may be; 5 Accept any of your persons; 6 Oh, that there were one among you that would shut the doors, that ye might not kindle (fire on) my altar in vain; 7 Is great; 8 Is offered; 9 Gentiles; 10 The; 11 Ye rob me; 12 The whole tithe; 13 Happy.

GOLDEN TEXT

"God loveth a cheerful giver." 1 Cor. 9: 7.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Mal. 1: 6-11 and 3: 8-12. Lessons in giving.

T.—Deut. 16: 9-17. "As He is able."

W.—Luke 6: 30-38. The reward. Th.—2 Cor. 8: 1-9. Christ's example.

F.—2 Cor. 8: 10-21. A willing mind.

S.—2 Cor. 9. A cheerful giver.

S.—1 Tim. 6: 6-19. Ready to distribute.

TIME

Possibly between Nehemiah's first and second visits to Jerusalem, B.C. 433-427

PLACE

Jerusalem.

CATECHISM

Review Questions 76-78.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—108 (P's.), 128, 238, 420, 427.

LESSON PLAN

I. Meanness in Giving, 6-11.

The worst and not the best; and from hope of gain, not love of God.

II. The Curse that Follows, Ch. 3: 8, 9.

Because it has been a robbing of God.

III. Right Giving and Blessing, 10-12.

All the tithes, on their part; His best gifts, on God's.

CONNECTION

Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets. The law of God was utterly disregarded, and the people had become hard and selfish. To bring them back to God, to correct crying evils and to quicken their religious life, was Malachi's mission.

EXPLANATION

6/10. A son . . . father; by showing reverence, respect, and obedience. A servant his master; by faithfulness in service. Despise my name; by offering unworthy sacrifices, and by false living. Ye offer polluted bread; that is, sacrifices. The word for "bread" is often rendered food (Lev. 3: 11-16). Sacrifices are called the "bread" or "food" of God (Lev. 21: 6-8. Ezek. 44: 7). The "polluted bread" was the flesh of blemished beasts, which was of little value to themselves. (v. 8). In that ye say; in your hearts. The table . . . contemptible; and, therefore, may be despised. "Table" here refers to the altar on which the sacrifices were offered. If ye offer the blind; contrary to Deut. 15: 21. They would not think of offering such a gift to a civil ruler,

much less should they offer it to God. This hath been by your means. This is what you have been doing; how, then can God accept you? Who is there? they could not do the smallest service unselfishly. (But see, Rev. Ver., which means—better that sacrifices should cease than that they should be offered unworthily.)

11. From the rising of the sun; that is, from east to west, all over the world. My name shall be great. The Rev. Ver. reads "is great," as though the future acceptance of God by the heathen were already present. Shall be offered; Rev. Ver. "is offered." (See above.)

Ch. 3: 8, 9. Will a man rob God? A very daring act, and yet Judah was guilty of it. Yet ye have robbed me. By denying