

Wealth Transfer – Heart Conditions

Acts 3:19-21 – Final Season of Restoration

-Process of Restoration found in scripture:

- Jeremiah travailed at the coming of God's judgment on idolatrous Israel, which brought about the promise of restoration after Babylonian captivity.*
- Daniel read the 70 years prophecy and TRAVAILED, which released the process of restoration under Zerubbabel, Joshua and Ezra.*
 - The first step was repairing the true temple of the Lord for His presence and power to be restored.*

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Acts 3:19-21 – Final Season of Restoration

-Process of Restoration found in scripture:

- (Bringing this up-to-date, we know that the TRUE TEMPLE is the body of Christ in this New Testament era.)*
- After the temple is restored and the leaders pass away, the current leaders, priesthood and people fall into declension, carnality and bondage.*
 - Malachi comes prophesying of a new day coming when the Lord will come and cleanse and establish the true temple and priesthood of the Lord.*

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Acts 3:19-21 – Final Season of Restoration

-Process of Restoration found in scripture:

- It is here that God's hidden, apostolic leader, Nehemiah, hears of how things are, and knows how it ought to be, and enters into the same travail (Nehemiah 1), releasing grace, favor and authority to set things in true order and finish the restoration process.*

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Prophet Malachi: “Houston, we have a problem....”

-The problems today are the same as they were in Nehemiah’s and Malachi’s day.

Mal. 1:6-2:9.

Mal. 2:11; 13-17.

Mal. 3:8-12.

- Unacceptable sacrifices.*
- Compromising, carnal attitudes and lifestyles (with leaders setting the norm!).*
- Rampant immorality and relational breakdown.*
- Robbing God of intimacy, time, talent and money.*

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According to Mal. 1:6-14, what is an “unacceptable sacrifice”?

- Blind** – *A scant or begrudging gift because the person cannot see a loving, passionate God they are offering it to. Neither can faith see the promised blessing and power released by God to the one giving it.*
- Lame** – *A gift offered by those whose walk does not add up to their talk.*
- Sick** – *Offerings made by those with impure or selfish motives.*

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Scriptural, Acceptable Sacrifices:

- Broken & Contrite Hearts** – *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise.” **Psalm 51:17***
- Prayer & Praise** – *“Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.” **Psalm 141:2; 1 Pet. 2:5-9.***
- A Yielded Life to God’s Will** – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” **Romans 12:1.***
- Thanksgiving & Good Deeds** – **Hebrews 13:15-16.**

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Four Ways We (May) Have Been Robbing God:

•Intimacy and Devotion.

- *The affection of the heart is the supreme expression of sacrifice.*
- *He wants the firstfruits of devotion for Himself!*
- **This means first in sequence and first in quality – no leftovers or second best (Luke 17:5-10).**

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Four Ways We (May) Have Been Robbing God:

•Time.

- *God expects us to preserve time during the day to be set aside for Him and His interests, putting temporal duties and worries aside.*
- *To establish His presence and take the spiritual and natural ground that must be possessed, it takes time for this process to work.*
- *Was the “seek first”, first?*

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Four Ways We (May) Have Been Robbing God:

•Gifts.

- *This covers both natural and spiritual gifts and graces.*
- *Talents that serve selfish interests, prestige or just material prosperity shows the enemy has achieved his goal and is in charge.*
- *Prostituting spiritual gifts/anointings is simply being led by demons.*

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Four Ways We (May) Have Been Robbing God:

•Money.

•Malachi's prophecy is specifically focused on financial theft from God.

•The Israelite was commanded to return the firstfruits to the Lord.

•First, this involved a tenth of the increase of all income.

•Second, there were offerings ON TOP of the tithe.

•The tithe is OWED; the offering is unacceptable until the tithe is paid!

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Four Ways We (May) Have Been Robbing God:

•Money.

•Under the New Covenant, does God expect less from His people "under grace" than what He demanded under law?

•There is no specific command in the New Testament to bring tithes and offerings, however, several passages show this is what they continued to do (1 Cor. 16:2, etc.)
