

**A Charge & A Challenge**  
**(The People's Sins)**  
**Malachi 3:7-12**  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the charge God places on the people and the challenge He offers to them.

Introduction

I. You have turned aside... (3:7)

A. The charge (7.a)

1. Their rebellion has lasted generations; they had failed to see the error and change.
2. They have gone away from God's Word, they have not kept them.
  - a. Notice God doesn't leave room for a grey area or excuses, it was obedience or disobedience.

B. The plea (v.7b)

1. God's return to them was conditional on their return.
  - a. God's distance was because of their sin (Isaiah 59:1-2)
2. God's promise of blessings has always been conditional (Deut 28).
  - a. Man must cooperate by doing his part, they had not done this.
3. "In what way shall we return?" - Their response lacked heart, desire, loyalty or any thing that resembled the desire to turn from evil.

II. You have robbed me (3:8-9)

A. A rhetorical question & gut-wrenching answer

1. God asks a question that they have already answered (v.8a)
2. They have withheld from God, they have robbed Him because they did not give what was due to Him (v.8b).

B. Cursed for robbery (v.9)

1. They are cursed because of their actions.
2. Even the nation is included in this charge.

III. If they return... (v.10-12)

A. Sincere exhortation & challenge (v.10)

1. If they will do their part – repent and return (v.10a)
2. God will then do His part (v.10b) – “If I will not open for you...”

B. God will punish your enemies and bless you publicly (v.11-12)

1. God will bless them and they will be fruitful (v.11)
2. They will be blessed to the degree that those around will see (v.12).

IV. Lessons for Us Today

A. You cannot argue with God

1. In Malachi man is pictured of arguing with God.  
“In what way...” and similar phrases are used throughout the book, indicating an attempt to argue with God.

2. God's charge never changed, not once. You cannot convince God to approval your disapproved behavior.

B. Man must do his part.

1. God always takes care of the faithful, but you must be faithful.

2. You cannot drive without gasoline, and you cannot have blessings from God without consistent obedience.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Have you gone away from His Word?

2. Are you robbing God?

3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9