

A PLEADING GOD

Malachi 3:7-12

Today let's look at God's loving plea for His people.

I. GOD'S CONCERNS (7)

A. THEIR HABITS

- They are distracted and disobedient

B. THEIR HISTORY

- From the days of their fathers (See for example Neh. 9:9-18)

C. THEIR HEART

- Distant and displaced

D. THEIR HESITATION

- "How shall we return?" can be understood several ways

1. A matter of arrogance
2. A matter of innocence
3. A matter of ignorance

E. THEIR HOPE

- God is calling them to return – See Zech. 1:3

II. GOD'S COMMANDS (8-10)

- Here's how to return ...

A. QUIT STEALING! (8-10a)

1. Their Robbery

- They robbed and kept robbing

2. The Reality

- If God doesn't have your wallet, He probably doesn't have your will either!

3. The Result (9)

- God's judgment

4. The Remedy (10a)

- Bring the whole tithe

B. GET INVOLVED (10a)

1. With God's Place - Consider Heb. 10:25
2. With God's Program - See Neh. 13:10-12
3. With God's Priorities - Note Gal. 6:6

C. WATCH GOD WORK (10b)

1. Be Testing God - See II Cor. 9:6
2. Be Impressed with God

D. DEMONSTRATE RELATIONSHIP - James 2:17-18

- Though one can have a heart relationship with God, one's walk, talk and actions should demonstrate it

III. **GOD'S COMMITMENTS** (11-12)

A. PROSPERITY (11)

1. Protection from Locusts
2. Protection from Losses

B. PROMINENCE (12)

1. A Global Impact: All will call you blessed
2. A Good Land: A delightful and precious jewel - Consider Deut. 33:29

CONCLUSION:

- Hey ... God can help you!
- Are you right with God?
 - Do you need to return?

Thank God, that like the prodigal's father, he patiently awaits your return.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. – James 4:8