*Thursday, January 15, 2015*

**Then and Now**

Malachi 3:7-8 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, wherein shall we return? (8) Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. (KJV)

Back in the day, neither they nor the Lord were concerned so much with dollar amounts, rather, how much of your time and talents were you giving the Lord? Today many make it seem so simple, just write some big name preacher a big check, and watch all your problems go away.

Malachi 3:9-11 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. (KJV)

The meat that our Lord would like to see His people partaking of today involves that of the Word, something that is life sustaining and will cause one to grow and mature in Christ. Most of what we are surrounded with today resembles more of a day care center, where a bunch of children congregate at.

Matthew 23:16-19 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! (17) Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifies the gold? (18) And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever swears by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. (19) Ye fools and blind: for which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? (KJV)

You know, back then we can see how misguided the people were, putting so much of the emphasis on what the people were giving to their organizations. Just like with today, most of the attention is focused on what the people ante up financially rather than spiritually. If they were considered fools and blind back then, yeah you got the same blind fools leading the blind today also.

Matthew 23:21-23 And whoso shall swear by the temple, swears by it, and by him that dwells therein. (22) And he that shall swear by heaven swears by the throne of God, and by him that sits thereon. (23) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. (KJV)

Today that seems to be the main focus of messages, giving and tithing; you know, the more you sow the more you reap? Yeah, you know who is doing the reaping part don’t you? The main focus should be on the weightier matters; you know, that spiritual stuff like judgment, mercy, faith, or hey how about the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy and peace to name a few others.

God bless and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.