**DAYLIGHT ROBBERY.**

**TEXT:**

**John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The context of our text is when Jesus was teaching about Good Shepherd and the sheep.
2. Here, the “thief”, referring to the devil, is contrasted with Jesus Himself, the Good Shepherd.
3. Thieves are sneaky while robbers are at a whole different level – brazenly taking what does not belong to them by force and often threat to your life.
4. Have you ever experienced theft or robbery?
5. My personal experiences of theft and robbery.

**PREPOSTION:**

1. GENEROSITY ENCOURAGED.
2. GENEROSITY ABUSED.
3. ROBBING GOD.
4. **GENEROSITY ENCOURAGED.**
5. **Proverbs 11:25, “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”**
6. **Exodus 23:15, “Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread; for seven days eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you. Do this at the appointed time in the month of Aviv, for in that month you came out of Egypt. “No one is to appear before me empty-handed.**
7. **Exodus 25:1-2, “The Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give.**
8. **Psalm 37:25-26, I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.**
9. **GENEROSITY ABUSED.**
10. Being generous and being a scam magnet are two separate issues.
11. It is one thing to have your things stolen or be robbed! A completely different thing when you are scammed – especially in the NAME OF GOD!
12. I hate scammers – click bait scams, romance scams, inheritance scams, investments scams, telephone scams, and above all – religious scams.
13. Remember the sermon on justice – everyone will be judged severely.
14. The challenge is – not to let the scammers from robbing you of your identity and inheritance from God.
15. **Galatians 3:14, “He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”**
16. When teaching on alms next month, I will specify the difference between meeting a need and feeding a greed.
17. **ROBBING GOD.**
18. The statement sounds like an oxymoron, as can man really rob God? Even the devil tried and failed!?!
19. Yet, the bible declares that man can actually rob God.
20. **Malachi 3:6-12**

**6“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.**

**“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’**

**8“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.**

**“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’**

**“In tithes and offerings. 9You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. 10Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. 11I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty. 12“Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.**

1. In context of daylight robbery, God is reminding Israel and the redeemed of our purpose to be extensions of His blessing via His divine provisions.
2. Cursed is the man who trusts in the arm of flesh (Jer 17:5) but blessed is the man whose God is their refuge.
3. Some trust in horses, some in chariots, some in their monthly paychecks, some in the Lord.
4. When we return God His tithe and offerings, we have a divine window of the floodgates of heaven open over us.
5. This should not be likened to winning a jackpot.
6. It is like 4 streams of river watering the Garden of Eden – not just one. When one stream runs dry, another is still operating.
7. This is a matter of conviction and not convincing.
8. Some have the gift of giving but everybody has the ability to have faith in God.
9. Nobody will die and go to hell for being a miser – you will just have a ruff journey which could have been avoided.
10. Naked we came, naked we will go. Hoard all you want but you ain’t gonna take it with you to the afterlife baby.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. **2 Corinthians 9:6-10**

**6Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9As it is written:**

**“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
    their righteousness endures forever.”**

**10Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.**

1. While the context of the verse above is pertaining to sowing and reaping, (which we will cover in months to come) the principle is about not being manipulated to give, but out of cheerfulness.
2. Whether in times of abundance or in times of need, be generous, especially to God. You can never outgive God.
3. Avoid scammers, especially “religious ones”, and expose them.
4. When you return your tithe and offerings to God, you have only done what you are supposed to do, not coming before Him empty handed.
5. This has to do with the law of exchange, give and it shall be given to you.
6. That’s why Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive.
7. The economy of the world will always be in turbulence, and the poor you will always have with you, as stated by Jesus.
8. There are secret treasures in hidden places reserved for the faithful.
9. I believe that God is looking for faithful man and woman whom he can trust with His treasures.
10. You have to start with being faithful with little before being made in charge of much.
11. You will be tested with little before you can be tested with much.
12. Like the story of the Good Samaritan, it was the religious people who avoided the robbed man.
13. Let us return to God the abundance He has given us following the example to the Good Samaritan.
14. Let us pray.