

Thieves of The Offering Box

Sermon Title: **Thieves of The Offering Box**

Sermon Number: **3036**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Female: You are listening to lordjesus.com and theonlineword.com. This message is number 3036. That's 3036. The title of this message is Thieves of The Offering Box by Nathaniel Bronner. And now, for the message.

Nathaniel Bronner: Normally, you see Elijah makes (00:00:19) appeal. I told him I wanted to do it today because of an incident that happened upon last week. Mr. Cotton called and he was a little understandably in anguish. He said, "Pastor, you know, someone has broken into the offering box and they tore the lock off and broken to the offering box," and saw the few of the envelopes and they were left because often times it's usually cleaned up right after the offering but sometimes, someone who comes in late and they put their offering in after the general offering has been taken and Mr. Cotton was just upset that someone would just tear the offering box up trying to get the offering out.

And you know people, this is not unusual. That's why even when you go to most churches and when they tell you to come down for salvation, they always tell you -- what do they tell you? "Bring your pocket book." And do you know why they tell you to bring your pocket book? Because they know from experience that too often, the person who is next to you may be a thief. Turn to the person next to you and tell him, "I'm glad you're not a thief."

They know the person who is next to you may be a thief. We even had one of our hair shows where C. Elijah preaches each year and we had a lady. The lady was from the Bahamas and she was sitting on the front row and she came down for salvation and when she got back to her seat, someone has stolen her purse. And I said to myself, "This lady was sitting on the front row. That meant that someone -- when someone is sitting way in the back, it was someone who was sitting on the front row in the service, stole the lady's purse."

I had an experience that I talked to you about years ago. I was driving my uncle's car and I had gone out to pick up the cassette duplicators for the church. We just bought two brand new cassette duplicators. I had them in the trunk and I parked the car out in the little five points there. I was going into a natural health food store there. And when I came back out at the

parking lot, the car was gone. Now, the problem was I didn't lock the car. See, that's the first issue.

Because it was an older car -- I didn't lock the car. I learned a good lesson in this. See, some of these stuff, we got to look it ourselves, we don't take -- we don't do -- I'll be honest, I didn't lock the car and I got back and saw it's a sinking feeling people to come back to a parking lot and you know you parked right there.

It's an indescribable feeling and I'm sitting and waiting, maybe I parked somewhere else. It's an indescribable feeling to finally realize that someone has stolen the car that you were riding. But the thing that really upset me because the car was not that valuable, it was an old car but I had two brand new tape duplicators in the back for the church. And I was sitting there and I was just (00:03:43). I said Lord, this folk have stolen the merchandise of the church and (00:03:51) you ought to strike them for that.

That's exactly what I said, you ought to strike them for that. And I never will forget what God spoke to me there in that parking lot. He said, what these men stole is nothing compared to what my people steal in tithes and offerings. And that's when I say, God, our view is sometimes different.

Now, our offering box last Sunday was broken into. There's no excuse for it, I'm not making an excuse for it. My guess is that whoever did it was immature, desperate and did not know the true light of Christ. There's no question about that. I'm not making an excuse for them but I am going to say this and for those of you who've heard about the incident, that which was stolen out of that box last Sunday is nothing compared to what his peoples feel every Sunday. You all say every Sunday. Every Sunday in tithes and offerings.

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And that's why when God even when I heard about it, that experience in the parking lot instantly flashed back to me. What they stole -- and Mr. Cotton has gotten the offering box repaired, what they stole is nothing compared to what we steal every Sunday in tithes and offerings. Each week we simply ask you to bow your heads and to ask God, "Lord what shall I give?"

When you begin to listen to this voice and become obedient, there's never been a giving pressure, we don't beat you over the head off. When you began to just listen to that voice that begins to speak unto you and when you begin to obey God -- because if you can't obey him, Jesus said, if you can't be trusted with unrighteous manner, basically if you can't be trusted with money, how can you be trusted with the true riches of heaven?

If God cannot trust you to do what he speaks into your spirit and to be honest about it, there's controversy on whether tithing is correct in the new testament. It is not commanded. It is an old testament law. I'm going to be the first to admit, it's an old testament law.

In the new testament, they gave everything. The new church they put it all, they give such and you go, "Oh Lord, don't be mad at me." But in the new testament they put it all together, they brought everything and so, you can -- if you don't want to go to old testament, new testament, fine. You can go to new testament.

But what God has instructed me to do is just each service to ask you to just bow your heads and ask God, Lord, what shall I give? It teaches you two things. To learn to listen and become sensitive to the voice of God. And the major thing to become obedient to the voice of God. That's the hard part. That's the hard part, is to actually do what you hear God saying.

So, for those of you who heard about the incident at what happened upon last Sunday, we pray for the enlightenment of those who did. The money to be honest about it, people, is not that significant. It doesn't make that much different. It's the spirit and if they don't change the behavior, it leads to a life of destruction. I'm just seeing it over and over and over. You can't play with God stuff. I just seen it over and over but it's what God told me in that parking lot. Whoever did that is not really the major issue. It's every Sunday, every service that we make a decision.

That's why the Malachi when he said, "Will a man rob God?" Yeah, he'll rob God. No question about that but when you read Malachi, he wasn't talking to the people. He was talking to the priest. Malachi was talking to the priest. The priest, they were

robbing God. So, this thing gets deep and it goes from top to bottom.

I remember when my brother had his first church and when he moved to -- he took over an existing church and when he moved to start his own church, they told him -- and the church was an old church. They told him, they said, "Pastor Bronner, you are the first minister to ever pass to this church who has tithed." That's what Malachi was telling the preachers, "Will a man rob God?"

So, people at this time, just bow your heads for a few seconds and say Lord, upon this day, irregardless of all of the stuff that has happened in the past. All of the deviations and the times when I have not done right in the past. This day, Lord, this day, speak into my heart and unto my spirit. Lord, what shall I give? Amen, amen.

Well, simply make your checks out to the ark of salvation and if your urges would come and bring the repaired offering boxes out and as we prepare to come and bring our sacrifices unto the house of God. Mr. Cotton, which was one broken into? Turn around where they can see the scratches on. I just want them to see the scratches.

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Now, see it's fixed and it's kind of the way that we are in life when we go through stuff when we're beaten and battered. We get fixed, but we're still scared. And Mr. Cotton, don't fix them, don't try to paint over those scars and those scratches. Because sometimes God will leave things for us for a remembrance.

And I've even -- I have scars even on my body that I preached the sermon called the Beauty of the Scar, dealing with a motorcycle accident. And the scars remind me sometimes a foolishness, disobedience and the healing power of God. So, even when we've done wrong, even when we've been disobedient, God can still restore and he still makes whole again.

So, whoever did that, you can still get right. And I want to admonish you to put back in -- you don't have to come forward because no one needs to know who you are but can put back in what you took out and make it right. And this is the way we are

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with so much of our stuff in life, we can't change what we've done but we can make it right. And we are charged with doing that which we can do.

So, now at this time, if you would all stand and simply come around on the outside walls and as we start from the rear and bring our gifts unto the house of God.

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This ends message number 3036 by Nathaniel Bronner. To hear other messages or to send this message number 3036 to a friend simply go to lordjesus.com and theonlineword.com. This has been message number 3036. Listen to lordjesus.com and theonlineword.com often and keep your spirit charged up.

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