

## Isaiah 61:8

*For I, the LORD, love justice;  
I hate robbery for burnt offering;  
I will direct their work in truth,  
And will make with them an everlasting covenant.*

We all work hard each week for our money. And most of us get paid by the hour and have to fill out a timecard or our we enter our time in a computer. When you fill out this timecard, you are stating that you worked from this time until that time and took so much time off for lunch. But have you ever taken a little extra long lunch, say 45 minutes instead of 30 minutes, but wrote down on your timecard that you only took 30 minutes. What you have just done is stolen from your employer.

But it gets worse. Now say you tithe ten percent of your income each pay period, and you just tithed on your income, including that little 15 minutes that you lied about on your timecard. (*I know this isn't a make you feel good kind of devotional today, but one we should all take to heart.*) Now thinking about all of this, read today's devotional verse again.

† *For I, the LORD, love justice;  
I hate robbery for burnt offering;  
I will direct their work in truth,  
And will make with them an everlasting covenant.*

Did you catch the second line: ***“I hate robbery for burnt offering”***

In our example, you have just done one of the things that God hates, you robbed your employer and offered it to God as a burnt offering, or a tithe.

So next time you take that extra long lunch, or get to work late, make sure you are honest on your timecard. When you do, you will have a peace about what you are offering to God, and He will be pleased with your offering, because it was earned in honesty.

† **Malachi 1:8** *And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.*

† **Malachi 3:8** *Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.*