

Mid-Week Recharge Minor Prophets Study:

Malachi

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- *February 9th – Malachi 1:1-5; God’s Unique Love*
- *February 16th – Malachi 1:6-2:16; God’s Unique Love for His Disobedient People*
- *February 23rd – Malachi 2:13-3:12; God’s Unique Righteous Love*
- *March 2nd – Malachi 3:13-4:6; God’s Unique Servant Love*

Book Theme: *The Son of Righteousness*
Section Theme: *God’s Unique Love for His disobedience People*
Section #2: *Chapter 1:6-2:16*

Class Agenda
Prayer and Review
Study of Malachi 1:6-2:16
Prayer requests and prayer

Introduction

Review

- The clear focus of Malachi is the holiness of God. He is entirely other and His ways are not our ways. That is what Israel fails to understand and why God sends Malachi to comfort them.
- Malachi is best understood in the context of Ezra and Nehemiah
- The proof of God’s love for Israel is in contrast to the perpetual destruction of Edom
- God chose to hate Esau for the same characteristics that were intrinsic to Jacob
- God chose to love Jacob for no reason intrinsic to Jacob
- My response to bad things should be: “Great is the Lord”

Text

The priest’s polluted offerings Indicate they are more Esau than Jacob

- 1:6 *“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’*
- 1:7 *By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the Lord’s table may be despised.*
- 1:8 *When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is*

that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts.

1:9 And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the Lord of hosts.

Reflection Questions

- Are my offerings to God more Jacob (stealing) or Esau (despising)?
- How have I presented polluted offerings to the altar of God?
- When I look at my resources (money, time, property, family, etc), where do I fail to give the best to God before giving to myself or my responsibilities?

God will not accept worship that is just going through the motions

1:10 Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on My altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the Lord of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.

1:11 For from the rising of the sun to its setting My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to My name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

1:12 But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised.

1:13 But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the Lord of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the Lord.

1:14 Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and My name will be feared among the nations.

Reflection Questions

- Am I giving God what He really wants when I come to worship Him in His house?
- How am I cheating the Lord of hosts?
- What aspects of my life prove that I fear my Great King?

The Lord of hosts rebukes the priests

2:1 “And now, O priests, this command is for you

2:2 If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to My name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart.

2:3 Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it.

2:4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that My covenant with Levi may stand, says the Lord of hosts.

2:5 My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared Me. He stood in awe of My name.

2:6 True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.

2:7 For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

2:8 But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts,

2:9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.

Reflection Questions

- What curses I am calling down on myself because I do not take God’s commands to heart?

- What do I know about God that causes me to obey Him out of fear or awe?
- How do I know I am “guarding knowledge that people seek from my mouth” and not “causing people to stumble by [my] instruction”?

The people are faithless to their covenant God and covenant wife

2:10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

2:11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the Lord, which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

2:12 May the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the Lord of hosts!

2:13 And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord’s altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.

2:14 But you say, “Why does He not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

2:15 Did He not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

2:16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

Reflection Questions

- How do I know God is regarding my offering?
- What is my relationship with my covenant wife/ husband?
- Where are my Godly offspring?