

MALACHI – GIVING GOD YOUR BEST #2
“Where’s My Honor”
Malachi 2:6-14

God’s people must have a sense of awe when they come into his presence and assemble for worship. When people lose their sense of holy awe in approaching the Lord and begin to take him for granted, their spiritual lives will flounder. Such was the case with Israel in Malachi’s day. They had lost their sense of reverence for God and their worship had become shallow and superficial. Their devotion to God had deteriorated into a bad attitude about serving God. Both the priests and the people weren’t even remotely close to giving God their best. They needed to recapture their holy fire for God. Perhaps, some of us need to rekindle our holy awe for God and start giving God our best.

#1. OUR REVERENCE FOR GOD IS REFLECTED BY HOW WE EXALT HIS NAME, v. 6

- A. God’s name is a disclosure of his being, v. 6 (Ex 3:14)
- B. God is to be honored as a Father
- C. God is to be honored as a Master
- D. God had issues with the priests
- E. God’s name was held in contempt by the priests

#2. OUR REVERENCE FOR GOD IS REFLECTED BY WHAT WE OFFER HIM, vv. 7-11

- A. They place defiled food on the altar, v. 7
- B. They say the Lord’s table is contemptible, v. 7
- C. They accept defective animals for sacrifice, v. 8, (Lev 22:18-25, Deu 15:21, 1 Chron 21:22-25)
- D. The secular authorities wouldn’t accept that, v. 8
- E. They expect God to answer their prayers, v. 9
- F. They should shut down the Temple & stop useless fire, v. 10
- G. The name of God will be honored among the nations, v. 11

#3. OUR REVERENCE FOR GOD IS REFLECTED BY OUR ATTITUDE ABOUT SERVING HIM, vv. 12-14

- A. Their gripe: The Lord’s table is defiled, v. 12
 - B. Their gripe: Its’ food is contemptible, v. 12
 - C. Their gripe: What a burden it is to serve God, v. 13
 - D. God’s gripe: You sniff at it contemptuously, v. 13
 - E. The Lord won’t accept their defective sacrifices, v. 13b
 - F. The Lord will judge those who don’t keep vows, v. 14a, (Lev 22:18-23)
 - G. The Lord’s name is to be feared among the nations, v. 14b
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TODAY’S SCRIPTURE
Malachi 1:6-14

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?' "You place defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible. ⁸When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the LORD Almighty. ⁹"Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"-- says the LORD Almighty. ¹⁰"Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands. ¹¹My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the LORD Almighty. ¹²"But you profane it by saying of the Lord's table, 'It is defiled,' and of its food, 'It is contemptible.' ¹³And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the LORD Almighty. "When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the LORD. ¹⁴"Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the LORD Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations.

Leviticus 22:18-19 "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites and say to them: 'If any of you—either an Israelite or an alien living in Israel—presents a gift for a burnt offering to the LORD, either to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, ¹⁹you must present a male without defect from the cattle, sheep or goats in order that it may be accepted on your behalf.

Deuteronomy 15:21 If an animal has a defect, is lame or blind, or has any serious flaw, you must not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Chronicles 21:22-25: David said to him, "Let me have the site of your threshing floor so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped. Sell it to me at the full price." ²³Araunah said to David, "Take it! Let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this." ²⁴But King David replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing." ²⁵So David paid Araunah six hundred shekels of gold for the site.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. How should God be respected as a Father?

#2. How should God be respected as a Master?

#3. The priesthood had not kept God's standards which caused the spiritual demise of the nation? Do you see parallels between the state of the clergy in Malachi's day, and our situation in America? If so what?

#4. Read Leviticus 22:18-22 and discuss the following questions:

- A. Why did the animals for sacrifice have to be without defect?
- B. The priests had to inspect the animals before accepting them as a legitimate sacrifice. Why did the priests accept defective animals (Mal 1: 8, 13)?
- C. Is the greater guilt resting on the priests or the one bringing the defective animal to the priest?

#5. The priests complained that it is a burden to serve God (v. 13). In what ways do people today find serving God to be a burden rather than a joyful privilege?

#6. Why should we expect God to answer our prayers if we are offering him less than our best? (v. 9)

#7. What insights can we glean about David's offering to God? (1 Chronicles 21:22-25)

#8. Read Mark 12:41-44 and discuss the following questions:

- A. What does this tell us about the amount of money that we give to God?
- B. Do you feel this passage supports the concept of sacrificial giving? Why or why not?
- C. Would most people think the widow was foolish for giving everything she had to live on? How did God view her giving?

#9. Why does God keep saying that his name will be honored among the nations? (vv. 5, 11, 14)

#10. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE BACK TO OUR NORMAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday night Bible Study at 6:30

Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30. Access by clicking the zoom link on the home page of the website.

WE ARE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS

We have made some breakthroughs in the quality of the sound you are hearing as we do the music, thanks to DJ and Tyle. It is our goal to provide you with the best possible service that we can. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of Hillcrest Church. You can give online at the church website or mail your check to the church.

- Give to the general fund (our operating expenses)
- Give to the elder's fund (to assist those in financial need)
- Give to the Great Commission fund (for the missionaries of the CMA)

