
MALACHI- LESSON # 8

Read *Malachi 2:6-9*

- God is going to rebuke the Priests by describing the Levites that he first made a covenant with.
- God wants to remind them: At one time, the people he made this agreement with actually lived up to their end of it

Malachi 2:6

True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity.

THREE ATTRIBUTES OF A PRIEST:

1. **What he says:** *True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips*
2. **How he walks:** *He walked with Me in peace and uprightness*
3. **What he does:** *He turned many back from iniquity*

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

- **True Instruction.** What do we have today? **2 Timothy 4:2-4**
 - o Who is depending on them to speak true instruction?
 - o They are letting both God and the people down.
- **Unrighteousness was not found on His lips:**
 - o If it comes out of his mouth; where else is it?
 - o **Matthew 15:18, James 3:9-12**

HOW DID THEY WALK?

- They walked with God
 - o Gives the idea of a union, togetherness, same direction and goals
- **Acts 4:13-** The Crowd “observed” that John and Peter had spent time with Jesus
 - o What do people see when they observe you?

WHAT DID THEY DO?

- They turned many back from iniquity
- Notice: God gives them the credit, God did not turn them back, the priests did.
- **Gal. 6:1, 1 Cor. 5:6, Matt. 18:15, 1 Thess. 5:14, 1 Tim. 5:20**

Mal 2:7 "For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

PRESERVE KNOWLEDGE

- Preserve: Pre (Before, in advance) & serve (to keep, guard, protect)
 - o To keep something protected from anything that would cause its current quality or condition to change or deteriorate, or cause it to fall out of use.
 - o Hebrew: shâmar- **Gen. 2:15, Gen. 3:24, Gen. 4:9**

Notice the Progression:

- When the lips of a priest preserve knowledge, men will seek their instruction.

Mal 2:8 "But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the LORD of hosts. Mal 2:9 "So I also have made you despised and abased before all the people, just as you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality in the instruction.

THE CONTRAST:

In the Past- Priests turned many back into the right direction

- How did they do that? By speaking the truth, and walking with God
- Now what are they doing?
 - o Going the wrong way- and leading people with them

V 6-8: WE SEE THE POWER OF INFLUENCE

- When Priests spoke what was right- did what was right
 - o Influenced people to do what is right, turn from error
- In Malachi's Day-they not speak truth, they do not do what is right
 - o People are influenced to do wrong as well

God accuses them of showing partiality with the law: ***Leviticus 19:15***

The priests deceived themselves into trying to claim the privileges of this covenant, while neglecting the conditions of it. They believed that God was bound to it; but they were free from all the obligation which it imposed on them to serve the Lord faithfully.