
MALACHI- LESSON # 5

MALACHI- CHAPTER 2

Mal 2:1 "And now this commandment is for you, O priests."

3 REASONS THE PRIESTS ARE BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE:

1. It is their fault

- a. They have lowered the standard- accepting what is unacceptable

2. They are the only ones in a position to make it right

- a. History reveals- when the leadership is strong, so are the people (*Joshua 24:15*)
- b. When the leadership is immoral, compromising, unscriptural: so are the people (*1 Kings 15:26, 1 Kings 15:34*)
- c. Those in leadership are in a position to:
 - i. Stop the compromise
 - ii. Re-set the standard for God's people
 - iii. Set the right attitude toward worship/service
 - iv. Lead by example

3. It's their job and responsibility

- a. If you can affect change- then it is your responsibility to do so.

Mal 2:2 "If you do not listen, and if you do 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; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart."

Priests are given a warning/instruction/judgment: told to do three things

LISTEN

- Hebrews- "listen": שמע shâma`
- To listen intelligently
- Used when someone wants to get someone's attention
- Used to describe active/focused listening (*Genesis 18:10*)
- Often translated: Obey
- *Genesis 22:18, Genesis 26:5*

TAKE IT TO HEART

- **Peter's sermon in Acts 2 and Stephen's sermon in Acts 7**
 - Both cover same material
 - Both condemn crowd for crucifying Christ
 - Both sermons used Old Testament scripture to prove Jesus was Messiah
- **Consider the reaction: Acts 2:37, Acts 7:54**
 - **Acts 2:** Took it to heart, obeyed, committed
 - **Acts 7-** Took it to heart, rejected and lashed out in violence.

GIVE HONOR/GLORY TO HIS NAME

- Priests have been talking bad about God and serving God
 - Dishonored/Disrespected God in front of everyone
- Now: it's time to turn that around
 - **Matthew 5:16-**
 - What we do, how we live/treat one another is a reflection of the God we serve
 - Our attitude toward God- is a reflection of how great our God is

God is not pulling any punches with the people here in Malachi, but He is also giving them the formula to fix it. God wants them to be on His side and working with Him instead of against Him. God has done a lot to get us on His side as well!

FOR NEXT WEEK:

- Read **Numbers 22-25**