
MALACHI- LESSON # 4

Mal 1:9 "But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts.

- Do you think it is possible that as we pray to God to a God that looks down on us; and ask for His favor- that He is not looking down on us favorably?
- God will not reward our unfaithfulness
- There is no scenario with God where you can get the right results from doing the wrong thing

Mal 1:10 "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you.



What is the temple for?

- Outside: dealing with our sin
 - Altar of Burn Offering: Sacrifices
 - Laver: Cleansing/setting apart
- Inside: Dealing with our relationship with God
 - Table of shewbread (Lord's Supper)
 - Lampstand (Light of God's word)
 - Altar of Incense (Prayer)

THE TEMPLE WAS MAN'S LINK TO GOD!

- God is now looking for a volunteer to shut it down

Mal 1:11 "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," says the LORD of hosts.

- God is referring to the time when the Gospel is proclaimed to ALL people
- At that time: Incense (prayer) will be offered in His name in every place
 - ***Revelation 5:8, Psalm 141:2, Luke 1:10***
- The Jews of Malachi's day are not willing to worship God in reverence and honor, but God will find worshipers among the gentiles who will.

Mal 1:12 *"But you are profaning it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.' 13 "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the LORD of hosts, "and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the LORD.*

- Notice God is asking the question here:
 - o "Why should I accept what you offer me?"

Worship in Malachi's day is both Selfish and Insincere: What is it producing?

- o What did God get out of it? What did the people get out of it?
- o There is a reason that it is not acceptable to God- it does not work!
- True Worship is not tedious or wearisome to the worshiper

MINISTRY BURNOUT- Malachi 1:13 "...My, how tiresome it is!"

Today in the Church we see people leaving, preachers quitting, leaders stepping down and often blaming it on "burnout".

- Definition of "burnout": Where one's devotion to a cause or relationship fails to produce the desired results
- Most "Christian" resources give us the following solutions:
 - o Learn to say no, take a break, limit your involvement, get more "me time"
- What does the scriptures say?
 - o **Romans 12:10-13, Galatians 6:9, 1 Corinthians 15:58, 2 Corinthians 4:1**

Mal 1:14 *"But cursed be the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I am a great King," says the LORD of hosts, "and My name is feared among the nations."*

What is God calling them here?

- NASB uses "swindler", KJV/NKJ= "deceiver" NIV/ESV= "cheat"
 - o This word sums it all up: to defraud, act treacherously, conspire, deceive
 - o Same word is used in **Malachi 3:8**
- They are promising God one thing; and in reality, giving Him much less.
- Same thing happened in **Acts 4:32-27** (Ananias and Saphira)

BLESSINGS AND CURSES- cursed be the swindler

- **Duet. 11:26-28, Proverbs 3:33**
 - o **Blessing:** to receive favor from God; to be well off; that which leads to joy and happiness.
 - o **Cursed:** to be removed from God's favor; that which results in misery or despair- literally "cut off"