
Malachi 2:1-17

Topic: The Book of Malachi is so important for us to understand how the Jewish people were, and it was written 400 years after the last message from God. The people of Israel had deteriorated spiritually so bad, that God sent a message of repentance. It is the last record of God dealing with the Jewish people. The Last Word is always the most important.

Vs1: God is addressing the priests themselves, directly.

Vs2: They were to be a living example in action and word, God's representatives. But they had deteriorated so bad that God threatened a curse on them because they have not taken God's word to heart. They are just going through an exercise, a meaningless ritual and not teaching the people correctly. Because they don't take the word of God seriously, God is angry and is sending them a warning message through Malachi. Everything that we do is to bring honor and glory to Christ, not ourselves. Without Him, we have nothing. God says that He is not accepting their sacrifices and offerings; instead He is cursing them.

Vs3: because of the priests' behavior, God is going to make their food seeds not grow, and rub their faces in excrement. This is very harsh. When the animals are cut up for sacrifice, they were to clean out all the dung of the digestive system, and God says He's going to give them the dung to eat. This is how upset God is with these priests' behaviour. How does this apply to us? How are we treating the things of God? In our actions and everyday behaviour, what is our attitude showing how we feel about God?

Vs4: God is calling Levi personally.

Vs5: Levi was scared, he feared the Lord. He understood the awesome power of the Lord and feared it.

Vs6: Look at what the priests were doing – corrupting His word, living a lie, not teaching the people honestly.

Vs7: the priests in those days were the messengers. They were to teach His word with honesty and integrity. The teachers/priests will be held to a higher standard of judgement than lay-people.

Vs8: Look at what you have done to the priesthood over these hundreds of years. You have corrupted it, and they were held in contempt.

Vs9: Fallen priests are the worst.

Vs10: we all have one creator; we are all really one in the household of God. Why are you leading the people astray? Why are you so uncaring to your brothers and sisters? We need to care for one another as family.

Vs11: God gets into an issue here with the Israelites, an abomination. They are marrying foreign women, and this is not acceptable to the Lord. Jews were not allowed to marry heathen, because they would be lead astray.

Vs12: those who married a pagan would be cut off from the Lord.

Vs13: here you come again, covering the altar in tears because they were cut off from the Lord. The Jewish men were divorcing the Jewish women and they went off and married foreign women. The Jewish women went to the altar to ask God to straighten this all out, but God said, "You have

sinned so much, and you have gone so far astray, I don't want to have anything else to do with you." If you have unconfessed sin in your heart, you can't just lie in bed and say a little prayer. God won't listen to you. But if you repent in your heart, and live a Christian life according to the rules of God, then He'll listen to you.

Vs14: God said "Listen men, when you were married when you were young, Jewish wives, and you betrayed them. You promised them a covenant for the rest of their lives, and you betrayed them and dealt with them treacherously." The men were leaving the wives for pagans.

Vs15: remember the context: the Jewish men were divorcing their Jewish wives and marrying foreign women. We are one: Adam and Eve. God could have made more than one pair, but He didn't. He only made one couple. Therefore we have one covenant to one man and one woman. He had a plan and He was going to bring it through Adam and Eve all the way through. Take a look at yourself, at your spirit, and treat your first wife well and complete the covenant you made with her throughout your life.

Vs16: God says He hates divorce, so pay attention to your inner heart and spirit, and stop divorcing your Jewish wives in exchange for a foreign wife. First of all, God set Israel aside to receive His word and carry it into the world. Then the priests, His teachers, became corrupt, and now His people were divorcing their assigned Jewish wives for heathens who would lead Israel astray. The plan was going astray. We are to marry Christians, not heathens. We are supposed to be separate and different from the rest of the world.

Vs17: God is tired of their talk, their incessant chatter, trying to convince Him to bless them. The Israelites are looking around at the pagans around them, and Jerusalem was destroyed and still being rebuilt, but the pagans were prospering. How come God is blessing the evil and not us Christians? The Christians are acting evil just like the pagans, yet the pagans had new houses, new boats, new cars, etc. If God is really who He says He is, how come we Christians are not blessed but the evil people are? Life is not fair, period. God never said life is fair; He said we'd have trials and tribulations. We are being tested and shaped into strong Christians for His use. But life is never fair. Take that with you for the rest of your life.