



MALACHI

A SERIES OF DISPUTES
 CLAIM DISAGREEMENT RESPONSE

4:4-6 CONCLUDING APPENDIX TO THE TORAH & PROPHETS

TORAH AND PROPHETS "REMEMBER THE TORAH OF MY SERVANT MOSES." "I WILL SEND THE PROPHET ELLIAH BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD, WHO WILL RESTORE THE HEARTS OF GOD'S PEOPLE."

• SUMMARIZES THE TORAH & PROPHETS AS A UNIFIED STORY THAT POINTS TO THE FUTURE.
 • ...WHEN GOD WILL SEND A NEW MOSES & ELLIAH TO RESTORE GOD'S PEOPLE & HEAL THEIR HEARTS. (REMEMBER DEUTERONOMY 30, JEREMIAH 31, LZEKIEL 36) ♡♡

1-2 EXPOSING ISRAEL'S CORRUPTION

DISPUTE #1 (2:1-5)

I STILL LOVE YOU... (2:1-2) HOW HAVE YOU SHOWN US LOVE? (2:3)

I CHOSE JACOB'S FAMILY TO CARRY MY COVENANT PROMISES... (2:4) ...BUT NOT ESAU'S FAMILY. (2:5)

JACOB & ISRAEL (2:1-2) ESAU & EDM (2:3-5)

REVERSED 2:2-27 & ORIGINATED

DISPUTE #2

(2:10-27)

YOU DESPISE ME & DEFILE MY TEMPLE. (2:10) HOW ARE WE DESPISING YOU? (2:11)

IT'S GOOD TO DOB! (2:10) NO PROBLEM! (2:11) IT'S BEE! (2:11)

OF ANNUAL INCOME, DONATED TO SUPPORT THE TEMPLE (2:14-15) (SEE LEVITICUS 27:30)

DISPUTE #3

(2:10-16)

YOU'VE TURNED AGAINST ME & YOUR WIVES. (2:10) WHAT?! HOW?!! (2:11)

WHY HE & WORSHIP MY GOD?! (2:10) YES, MYMAY! (2:10)

IDOLATRY & DIVORCE (2:10-16) (SEE MALACHI 2:11)

3 CONFRONTING ISRAEL'S CORRUPTION & THE DAY OF THE LORD

(2:17-3:5)

DISPUTE #4 (2:17-3:5)

YOU'VE NEGLECTED US! WHERE IS THE GOD OF JUSTICE? (2:17)

I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER TO PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME... AND I WILL COME TO BRING JUSTICE. (3:1-5)

PURIFYING FIRE (3:1-5) FAITHFUL REMNANT (3:17-20)

DISPUTE #5

(3:6-12)

TURN BACK TO ME... (3:6) HOW?! (3:7)

START OFFERING THE TITHE AGAIN. (3:9)

(SEE MALACHI 3:10-11)

DISPUTE #6

(3:13-16)

IT'S POINTLESS TO SERVE GOD! WILKED PEOPLE, SUCCEED & GOD DOES NOTHING! (3:13)

GOD'S RESPONSE: A SHORT STORY (3:14)

THE FAITHFUL REMNANT (3:17-20)

SCROLL OF REPENTANCE (3:17-20)

4:1-3 CONCLUSION

THE FUTURE OF THE REMNANT! (4:1-3)

"FOR THOSE WHO REVERE MY NAME, THE SON OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL RISE, WITH HEALING IN ITS WINGS." (4:2)

→ THE FAITHFUL READ THE SCROLL TO REMEMBER GOD'S CHARACTER & PROMISES
 → THE DIVINE GIFT OF SCRIPTURES: THEY POINT US TO THE PAST TO INSPIRE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Malachi 1:1-5 - The Greatness of God's Electing Love

The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob 3 but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert." 4 If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the LORD of hosts says, "They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called 'the wicked country,' and 'the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.'" 5 Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, "Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!"

Discussion Questions

- Who is Malachi and what is the book's background?
- "*I have loved you,*" says *the LORD.*" How would you reply to that in your own life? How would you describe God's love to you?
- "*Is not Esau Jacob's brother?*" declares *the LORD.* "*Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated.* What does it say about the essence of God's love? How did God show his love to Israel?
- Why did God deal with Edom in such a harsh way?
- "*I have loved you,*" says *the Lord.* Does that make you tremble? Isaiah says, "This is the man to whom I will look, he that is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word." Have you learned the love of God in a way that makes you tremble?
- How does God show his love to us? Romans 8:28-30
- Do you look at your sister or brother living in sin and tremble that you have been chosen?
- How can we see God's goodness when everything around us seems bad? What can we do not to lose sight of it?
- The LORD is great beyond your life, beyond our church, beyond our country. How does that make you respond to him?

Sermon Notes & Personal Thoughts

Malachi 1:6-14 - The Curse of Careless Worship

6 “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ 7 By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’s table may be despised. 8 When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. 9 And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. 10 Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. 11 For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. 12 But you profane it when you say that the Lord’s table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. 13 But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD. 14 Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.

Discussion Questions

- Do you know God as your Father?
- When God reveals himself to us as Father, when he calls us to himself and adopts us into his family through faith in Christ, and gives us the Spirit of adoption, what does he intend for us to feel? What kind of response to his fatherhood does he want us to have?
- Malachi’s point is that we should show more honor to a Father who is so majestic in authority and self-sufficiency and universality, not just because he cares for them. Point it out in the book.
- What is our sacrifice to God? Romans 12:1-2

- What is the origin of careless half-hearted worship (11, 13-14)?
- What is the opposite of half-hearted worship? How does true worship look and what kind of heart does it come from?
- What motivates the life of worship? (Malachi 1:2; Romans 14:7-8)
- How do we express the worth of God and his greatness? What is excellence in worship?

Sermon Notes & Personal Thoughts

Malachi 2:1-9 - The Curse and Glory of Priests

1 “And now, O priests, this command is for you. 2 If you will not listen, if you will 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. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. 3 Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. 4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. 5 My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. 6 True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. 7 For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. 8 But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, 9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

Discussion Questions

- Who are the priests today?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the high priest? Hebrews 9:26
- What does it mean that church is the royal priesthood? 1 Peter 2:5,9; Hebrews 13:15-16
- What are the five failures of the priests you can see in this passage?
- What is the result of priestly failure?
- What are the four frightening threats?
- How does successful priestly ministry look?

Sermon Notes & Personal Thoughts

Malachi 2:10-16 - Let None Be Faithless to the Wife of His Youth

10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? 11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. 12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

13 And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. 16 "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be people set apart for God?
- How do my individual actions and sin affect the whole community/church?
- How does God warn us against the false-freedom of individualistic self-indulgence? And help us see the strength, beauty and joy of being faithful in our community, all our relationships and commitments?
- When we claim to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and then willfully choose to unite ourselves with an unbeliever in marriage, we profane the holiness of God. Why does God call it abomination? What does it mean for those who pursue marriage? 2 Corinthians 6:15–17 What does it mean for those who are married? 1 Corinthians 7:12–16
- What is marriage? What is special about it? (vs 14-15)

- Why is divorce evil and equals to violence? What are the consequences of divorce? To family? Community? How do we guard ourselves against it?
- How do these words of the covenant from Exodus 34:6–7 encourage you to not back out on your commitments, not to marry an unbeliever and not to divorce your covenant spouse?

Sermon Notes & Personal Thoughts

Malachi 2:17-3:5 - For He is Like a Refiner's Fire and Like Fullers' Soap

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Discussion Questions

- How does an evil become a norm? Point out evil that is considered a norm in our society?
- What do you think when you see evil go unpunished?
- Who are the two messengers mentioned in verse 1? What are their roles?
- Who is like a refiner's fire? Why must he be like a refiner's fire? Why won't God abandon us in our impurity? (Malachi 3:6)
- How can we experience his fire as refining and not consuming? Who will be consumed by the fire?(Verse 5)
- What is it like in the refiner's fire? (1 Peter 1:6–7; James 1:2–4; Hebrews 12:5–10; Matthew 5:29–30; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Romans 8:13)

Sermon Notes & Personal Thoughts

Malachi 3:6-12 - Return to Me, and I Will Return to You

6 “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ 8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. 11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

Discussion Questions

- Where in your life do you witness God’s unchanging character in spite of your unfaithfulness?
- How does God call us to be faithful to Him in verses 10-12?
- What does the New Testament teach on tithe and offering according to these passages? Luke 11:42; Luke 21:1-4; Acts 2:45; Acts 4:34–37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:1–24; 2 Corinthians 9:7
- What kind of giving pleased Jesus? Luke 21:1-4
- Why is it difficult for us to give? How is not giving a sin?
- How might giving become a sin? *“Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.”* What is the right motivation behind giving?

Sermon Notes & Personal Thoughts

Malachi 3:13-4:3 - Those Who Feared and Esteemed, They Shall be Mine

13 “Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’
14 You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’
15 And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.”

16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. 17 “They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. 3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

Discussion Questions

- Who do you consider blessed and why?
- Why would someone become a Christian if the evildoers seem to prosper?
- Do you believe or fall into believing that God must bless the righteous in some immediate and material way, or else righteousness is in vain?
- Does Malachi 3:10–12 teach that if we do what is right then we will be blessed in this life and if you don’t, you won’t? When you look around and see wrongdoers prospering, does that mean they are the real tithers—with whom God is really pleased? So then what is the essence of God’s promise? (Matthew 6:19-21, 25-34)
- What kind of people are condemned in these verses? And what kind of people does God call us to be? (Verses 16-17)

- What are God's promises to the righteous in this passage for this life and the life to come? How can we live with great expectation of the day of the Lord's coming?
- What does God promise to the unrighteous?
- Which group are you in? Are you among those who hold back from commitment to God because of suspicion or doubt or even anger?

Sermon Notes & Personal Thoughts

Malachi 4:4-6 - Before the Great and Awesome Day of the LORD Comes

4 “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Discussion Questions

- How should we look back at the faithful work of God in the past and look forward to the final victory?
- Why is it so important for us to remember the law? Deuteronomy 6:4–9 What kind of diligence does it call us to?
- What is the main point of the prophecy in Revelation 11:3–12? What messengers does God send you so you will listen and believe his word?
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–21 What ministry has God entrusted us with and how are we to carry it out in our families, communities, city, country and beyond?
- How can you this year grow in your understanding and knowledge of God’s word?
- God has turned his heart toward you in Jesus Christ. How does God call you today to turn your heart to your earthly father or your heart to your children?

Sermon Notes & Personal Thoughts



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