

Malachi 2:10-16 – A Godly Seed

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, January 21, 2024 AM

Last Time: 3rd of Six Discourses [Charge (God), Question (Israel), Response (God), Foundation];

- **Sunday Jan 7 AM** – “I Have Loved You” **Despite their blindness, there was evidence of His love in front of them.**
Foundation: “The Lord will be magnified beyond the borders of Israel.”
- **Sunday Jan 7 PM** – Overview of Malachi: Background, Relevance, Threads and Theme. **He wants a people who will make His name great across geography & generations.**
- **Sunday Jan 14 AM** – “I Am a Great King” **Their worship of a great God was weak and they were unaware.**
Foundation: His name would be great from rising of son to setting of the same & pure incense.

Malachi 2:10-16 – Third Discourse

Context: There are a few things we need to understand

1. The basic bricks of Jewish society were covenants. **They govern the relationship between God & man, man & man.**
 - a. The Covenant with God (the Old Testament)
 - b. The Covenant of Marriage
 - c. Other personal covenants they chose to make. **Illus:** Debt, Vows
2. The Priests (descendants of Levi) were under covenant with God (**Mal 2:1-9**).
The failure of the priests trickled down to the failure of the people.
3. There is a discourse pattern: 1) Fundamental thoughts about God; 2) Worship of God; 3) Relationship with Others
When the vertical relationship is bad, the horizontal relationships are too.

Charge: Breaking Faith

Mal 2:10 *Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, By profaning the covenant of our fathers?*

Deal treacherously – to deceive and break a covenant or agreement (**FIVE TIMES**)

Profaning – untying, loosing (pollute or defile)

There was a general problem of deceit and distrust among the people of God. No one’s word meant anything.

Illus: This remained a problem in Jesus’ day as people swore by different things to get out of a vow.

Malachi appealed to their common origin in God and their bond as a family, a nation. Family shouldn’t act this way.

Question: Why Don’t You Hear Me?

Mal 2:13-14a *And this have ye done again, Covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, Insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, Or receiveth it with good will at your hand. Yet ye say, Wherefore?*

- Worship was going on at the temple (weak but still worship in form).
- They were weeping to God (great emotion) and making request.
- Their offerings were not received, nor their prayers heard. **They did not know why.**

Response: Marriage Matters

1. Who you Marry

Mal 2:11-12 *Judah hath dealt treacherously, And an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; For Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, And hath married the daughter of a strange god. The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, Out of the tabernacles of Jacob, And him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.*

Judah – this behavior wasn’t isolated, it characterized the nation

Abomination – it wasn’t personal (e.g. Ruth), it was what this union produced: **idolatry in Israel**

Profaned the holiness – desecrate the sanctuary (Temple)

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Deut 7:4 *for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.*

Illus: King Solomon's wisdom was not exempt from corruption by foreign wives.

Time after time, this problem arose and corrupted Israel. The people weren't learning from the past.

They could see no further than the end of their own nose... what would this do.

Master & Scholar (*Hebrew idiom*) – He that awakes and he that answers. EVERYONE, ANYONE.

Regardless of whether it was a governor or the guy who cleans the stalls, they would be cut off from Israel.

2. Staying Married

Mal 2:14b-16 *Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, Against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: Yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit... Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: For one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: Therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.*

Divorce was a rampant problem in the land.

Malachi uses language intended to call out the hard-heartedness of the people:

- Wife of thy youth
- Companion
- Wife of thy covenant
- Didn't God make you one?

Putting Away - Divorce

Deut 22:19 ... she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days.

At this time, men were the ones with the legal right to divorce and doing so was called, "putting her away."

God HATES divorce.

Foundation: A Godly Seed

Mal 2:15b *And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed.*

Amid a deceitful culture, religiously mixed homes and rampant divorce, there is neither concern nor promise for the next generation. What was God's goal? The production & perpetuation of godliness across geography and generations.

APPLICATION

NT Truths for Translation:

- **Covenants are still relevant.**
 - **Marriage**

God created marriage in the Garden. He alone defines it and ratifies it by making two, a man & woman one. Our government may serve an administrative purpose, but it has no jurisdiction to define marriage.

Illus: No branch of our government individually or collectively has the power to alter the gospel.
 - **New Testament** – a entered by repentance & faith and secured by the blood of Christ.
 - **Church Covenant** – Fundamentally, a church is a group of baptized believers who have covenanted together to obey the commands of Scripture and bond themselves to one another in church capacity.
 - **Debt Covenants, Homeowner Association Covenants**
- **Horizontal relationships affect the vertical (and vice versus)**

1 John 4:20 *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*

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1. Charge: Breaking Faith

Do people still have a problem keeping commitments and covenants?

2. Question: Why Won't You Answer My Prayers?

As a NT Christian, does my favor with God depend on my relationship with others?

We aren't asking if He likes or loves you, but whether He is pleased with your behavior & responds to your prayers.

Mt 5:23-24 So if you are offering your gift at the altar & there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar & go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (ESV)

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Penalty box Christianity doesn't work. Sincere confession & repentance is the pathway back.

3. Response: Marriage

- Marriage is not God's calling for every believer and it is not a measure of our favor before Him.
- Having children is not God's calling for every home and it is not a measure of our favor before Him.

If God does call you into marriage...

a) Who You Marry Matters

2 Cor 6:14-16 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **This is the SAME sentiment the Lord had in the days of Malachi.**

- **Should God have any say?**
- **What is the nature of God's intention for you, your future, and future generations? It is good.**
We have fallen into the cultural trap of believing that love is an involuntary emotion.
Our culture does not know what love it nor understand its true nature.

b) Staying Married Matters

If you are married today, God wants the marriage you are in to endure.

- The NT does allow for divorce in cases of infidelity or desertion (a general statement).
- Some of what has been broken cannot be mended in this life (divorce & remarriage). No going back.

Our interest is in preserving what exists and preventing future problems.

As NT Christians, we are privy to revelation about marriage (Eph. 5) that OT believers didn't have.

4. Foundation: Godly Seed

This gets personal and hard, but we are asking how committed we really are to the cause.

God's desire is to preserve a light and do the work of evangelism and discipleship across geography & generations.

Godly Guidance: Guard your Heart

Mal 2:15b-16 Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: For one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: Therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Prov 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life.