

Malachi 1:6–14

⁶ “A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’

⁷ “You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the LORD is contemptible.’

⁸ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the LORD of hosts.

⁹ “But now entreat God’s favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?” Says the LORD of hosts.

¹⁰ “Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,” Says the LORD of hosts, “Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

¹¹ For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,” Says the LORD of hosts.

¹² “But you profane it, In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.’

¹³ You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it,” Says the LORD of hosts. “And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?” Says the LORD.

¹⁴ “But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King,” Says the LORD of hosts, “And My name is to be feared among the nations.

How Do We Treat the LORD?

Malachi 1:6-14

INTRO:

In our study of **Malachi 1**, we are listening to a dialogue between the LORD of hosts, Israel's God, and the people of God who were restored to the Promised Land after the Exile to Babylon. In this passage, our LORD turn from their doubting His love to their treatment of Him and His worship. The ultimate issue of this paragraph is the statement God made in **verse 6**. ***"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts."*** In short, how do we treat God? We will try to follow this conversation between Yahweh of hosts and the rebellious people of God.

The LORD's Opening Accusation (v. 6)

The People Answer (v. 6b)

The LORD Offers Proof (v. 7a)

The People Reply (7b)

The LORD (v.8-12)

The People Answer (v. 13a)

The LORD (v.13b-16)

The LORD's Opening Accusation (v. 6)

Malachi 1:6 ***"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name."***

A. Because this is addressed to the priests it is tempting to limit this discussion to the clergy. While it surely applies to pastors, it also applied to all the alleged people of God. We have no priests today, indeed all believers are believer priests. In **Malachi**, the priests represented the people to God. The priests did not bring the animals for sacrifice. The people did. So this is evidence of the people's heart problem.

B. The problem was the people mistreated their covenant keeping God. God was their Father. Fathers are owed honor. They did not honor Him. Second, The LORD was their Lord and Master. Masters are to be obeyed, ***"And if I am a Master, where is My reverence?"*** They treated God appallingly.

The People Answer (v. 6b)

Malachi 1:6b *“Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’”*

A. The priests and the people reply. How can you say that? How have we despised your name?

B. We are about to learn how they misunderstood what worship was. They thought that worship was just going through the motions. God only cared if we did our “God” thing and He was stuck with what we offered to Him. They were to discover differently.

The LORD Offers Proof (v. 7a)

Malachi 1:7a *“You offer defiled food on My altar,”* The Word translated “defiled” means “polluted” or “morally unacceptable.”

The People Reply (7b)

Malachi 1:7a *“But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’”*

There is a point here we might be unfamiliar with here. If something was unclean and anyone touched it, the one touching it was unclean and unholy and could not worship God. By offering polluted things to God they were in effect denying His perfect holiness.

The LORD (v.7c-12)

Malachi 1:7c-12 *“By saying, ‘The table of the LORD is [despised]’ ‘And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?’ Says the LORD of hosts. ‘But now entreat God’s favor that He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?’ Says the LORD of hosts. ‘Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,’ Says the LORD of hosts. ‘But you profane it, In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is [despised].’”*

The People Answer (v. 13a)

Malachi 1:13a *“You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it,”*

The LORD (v. 13b-16)

Malachi 1:13b-16 *“Says the LORD of hosts. ‘And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?’ Says the LORD. ‘But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘And My name is to be feared among the nations.’”*

What Do We Take Away From This?

1. First we recognize Israel had a heart Problem.

Mark 7:6 *“[Jesus] answered and said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.’”*

2. How about us? Do we have a heart problem? Do we think it doesn't matter what way we offer our spiritual sacrifices as believer priests to Him? Do we think God has to accept everything we offer? In **John 4:23**, the Lord Jesus Himself said,

“The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.”

Where is our hearts when we worship Him?

3. When we offer our offering to Him do we give *“the first fruits”* because God Himself is worthy? When we give the fruit of our lips do we do that with all our hearts? When we give ourselves, do we do it completely to Him?

Romans 12:1-2 *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your [reasonable] service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

4. If our hearts condemn us, the Apostle John has the remedy.

1 John 3:18–21 *“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.”*

If our hearts condemn us, God knows how to deal with our hearts. Go to Him and seek to have Him change your heart.

Hymn #363 More Love to Thee