

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Malachi: The Final Word of the Old Covenant

Message 1: A Timeless Message

Malachi 1:1-5 (ESV)

¹The 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.” ⁴If 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.’” ⁵Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!”

Malachi 4:2a (ESV)

²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.

Setting:

Author:

Theme:

How Malachi still speaks to our times ...

Worship in Malachi’s day had _____ into _____,
_____.

Malachi 1:6a (ESV)

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?”

Malachi 1:6b-7b, 8 (ESV)

⁶ ... 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 ... ⁸When 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.

Malachi 1:10 (ESV)

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.

Malachi 2:17a (ESV)

¹⁷You have wearied the LORD with your words.

Malachi 3:13-14 (ESV)

¹³“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴You 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?’

Questions for us today:

Does God care how we worship?

Does God care why we worship?

Does God care if our acts of worship don’t match our daily actions?

Does our worship look at all like that of the Israelites in Malachi?

Note: *The unacceptable worship of the people was not only _____, but also _____ . Rather than pleasing God, they were displeasing Him, even evoking His wrath.*

The degeneration in worship led to a _____ of faith from daily living.

3 clear examples:

1) _____

The problem was _____, not _____

Malachi 2:10-11 (ESV)

¹⁰Have 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? ¹¹Judah 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.

2) _____

They were severing a holy _____ established and made sacred by God

Malachi 2:13-14 (ESV)

¹³And 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. ¹⁴But 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.

3) _____ and _____

Theirs was a culture of _____ and _____ godlessness.

Malachi 3:5 (ESV)

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.

Questions for us today:

Does God care about our allegiance?

Does God care about our marriages?

Does God care if our acts of worship don't match our daily actions?

Note: *God rejected their acts of “worship” because their acts of _____ were detestable to Him.*

When faith is divorced from everyday life, God is _____ His rightful place in our lives and we _____ away from Him. (Yet they still wanted His “_____”)

Malachi 3:6-12,14-15 (ESV)

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From 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?’ ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring 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. ¹¹I 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. ¹²Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

¹⁴You 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? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

Their failure to tithe (a clear command) reveals deeper issues and problems:

1. *They did not _____ God. (3:10-12)*
2. *They did not _____ God. (3:13)*
3. *They allowed _____ to dictate faith and practice. (3:14-15)*

Note: *The tithe was a reliable barometer of their declining relationship with God.*

Thankfully, Malachi ends with a glimpse of **the future** and God's offer of **hope** and **redemption**:

Malachi 4:2-6 (ESV)

²But 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. ³And 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. 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. ⁶And 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."

Our response?

Next week:

Malachi: How Did We Get Here?