

# Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

## Malachi: The Final Word of the Old Covenant

### Message 2: How Did We Get Here?

#### Their condition:

In the last chapter at the conclusion, both priests and people were guilty before God of worthless worship. The people were guilty for the sacrifices they brought and the attitude of the heart that accompanied them. The priests were guilty of not exerting godly leadership and moral direction by allowing the sacrifices and being calloused towards God.

#### Malachi 1:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> 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.

God had ...

They were ...

What if ...

**Big Picture:** Many \_\_\_\_\_ lead to broken \_\_\_\_\_!  
\_\_\_\_\_ priests led to \_\_\_\_\_ people:

#### Malachi 2:1-9 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> “And now, O priests, this command is for you. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> 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.”

The over-arching sin of the priests:

Specifically ...

- 1) They lost sight of the \_\_\_\_\_ of serving God.
- 2) They lost their \_\_\_\_\_ for the Almighty.
- 3) They lost the sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- 4) They let \_\_\_\_\_ slip away.
- 5) They stopped \_\_\_\_\_ what they stopped \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) They stopped \_\_\_\_\_ a God-honoring life.
- 7) They caused others to \_\_\_\_\_ because of their false teaching.

This led to ...

**Malachi 2:10-16 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> 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? <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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! <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> "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."

They had broken their covenant with God in **three critical areas**:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ turned on \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 10)
- 2) Worshippers turned on \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 11)
- 3) Husbands turned on their \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 14)

God's response?

**Malachi 2:17a (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> You have wearied the LORD with your words.

*Next week:  
The Way Home*