

Malachi 2

Malachi 2.1-6

V1 – Specifically who was being addressed? The priests

V2 – Two parts of the charges against them? They were not listening to God, and they were not taking to heart what he is saying

-What is the difference? Hearing it and applying it

-If they do not take it to heart, what will God do? Curse their blessings

-The curse: **Read Leviticus 26.14-20**

V3 – What would God dump on the corrupt priests? Garbage

-What would happen to the priests? They would get taken away with the garbage

V4 – Who was Levi? Son of Jacob; he became head of priests under the Law of Moses

V5 – What do we know about Levi? He revered God and stood in awe of the name of God

V6 – What else do we find out about Levi? True instructions from his lips; no unrighteousness in his life, he walked with God

Malachi 2.7-9

V7 – What is the role of the priests? Maintaining knowledge of God and teaching the people about God

-Sounds similar to the role of preachers and elders today

V8 – What were the three charges against the priests? Had turned away from the truth, had caused many to stumble, and had corrupted the covenant with Levi

V9 – What had God done? Made the priests despised before the people

-Why? They had shown partiality (preferring the rich over the poor)

-How could we be guilty of partiality today in the church? Against people of other races, the poor, the disabled

-Read **James 2.1-13**

Malachi 2.10-13

V10 – What are the basic principles that should stop partiality? That we all have one father (God)

-If we all have one father, that means that we are all brothers and sisters (in Adam)

V11 – A restating of the first charge (profaning the worship of God)

-What is the second charge against the people? Intermarriage with foreigners (non-Jews)

-Under the Old Testament, they were not allowed to marry foreigners (*Ezekiel 10.9-15*)

-Ezekiel forced them to separate (with or without children)

V 12– **To whom does the law of God apply?** All those who breathe (awake...)

V 13– **Another charge against them?** Cry all over the altar because God is upset

-**What good does crying do?** Nothing – **Read Matthew 7.21-23**

-We see people today who make a great pretense of worshiping God, but they do live according to his commandments

Malachi 2.14-17

V 14 – **Their next question?** Why?

-**What is God upset about?** The violation of marriage vows

-**Why?** A covenant made ("...before God and these witness...")

-Also: a companion of youth (got married young)

-Marriage is a promise to God

V 15– **Explain?** If you had a shred of the Holy Spirit, you would not divorce your wife

-**One purpose of Jews marrying?** “Godly offspring”

-**Seriousness of intermarriage with foreigner?** The children would not be true Jews

-**Warning from God?** “Do not deal treacherously with the wife of your youth”

V 16 –**What is God’s attitude toward divorce?** Hates it (this is a powerful statement)

-“Covers his garment” = ancient custom of claiming a wife by putting your coat over her (*Ruth 3.9*)

V 17– **#4: How had the people made God tired?** With all their evil deeds

Questions from Chapter 2:

Does God still hate divorce? Yes

How do we know it? Because he made dissolving a marriage so difficult (*Matthew 19.9*)

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