

Minor Prophets  
Malachi  
Lesson 3

Text: Malachi 1:6-14

Intro:

**I. Due Honor,**

A. Corporate Service,

**i. A Father or Master Receives Honor,**

- a) The Lord is referred to as both Master, and Father throughout the bible.
  - This was a title that the Nation of Israel willingly accepted for Him,
  - it is also a title that we (as Christians) have accepted for the Lord.
- b) But, there is a certain due respect that goes to each,
  - one of the commandments was “Honor thy Father”
  - **Exodus 20:12** “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. ”
  - **Ephesians 6:2** “Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)”
  - in fact Honor to the father was so severely thought of that the Jewish people punished the children that did not give reverence.
  - **Deuteronomy 21:18-21** “If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and *that*, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:<sup>19</sup>Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;<sup>20</sup>And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son *is* stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; *he is* a glutton, and a drunkard.<sup>21</sup>And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.”
- c) But, yet the very nation of Israel that considered the Lord as their Father, would not give Him the due Honor.
- d) The same is true for Master,
  - the one in charge, this is in reference to employes, either bound or free.
    - Can you imagine being a employee of a company, and being disrespectful to the owner, and not expect to be fired for it, expect to get away with it, with no consequences?
  - So the Nation of Israel was not giving due Honor and respect,

**ii. Priest fail in their Roll,**

- a) the priest are directly named in **vs.6**
  - “O priests, that despise my name.” **Vs.7** “Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar;”
- b) The priest was the one responsible to make a judgment of the offering wither or not it was acceptability to be made as an sacrifice.
  - We need to keep in mind what the sacrifices were, they were a picture of Christ,
  - The people would choose a blind or a crippled sacrifice to bring, but the priest would accept it.
    - This would be the equivalent of someone painting a picture of Jesus as a sinning person, but still claim that he is able to redeem us form sin.

- The reason we need a sacrifice is that we cannot be our own sacrifice, because we have sin.
  - Remember that Jesus did not have to give a sacrifice for himself,
    - **Hebrews 7:26&27** “For such a high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;<sup>27</sup>**Who needeth not daily**, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.”
- The idea of a priest to inspect the sacrifice was to make sure the proper picture is being painted,
  - if the priest had a high standard, the people would be more diligent about the sacrificial they brought to him, not wanting to be rejected, and having to go get another,
  - but as the standards of the priest were lowered, the standard of the people were lower.
    - This is one of the reasons it is important that we stand for a set of principles.
      - Such as the bible being the word of God and truth, if we slide on one section, then what footing do we have to stand on another.
      - It is also true what has been said many times, what we practice to moderation our children will practice to excess.
  - So, just because the people brought a cripple sacrifice, the priest didn't have to accept it.

## ii. So why did they accept it? “Contempt”

- a) the word here is to hold in disdain, or to despise, think to scorn.
  - After all why give a good sheep, when a blind one will do the same thing?
  - Remember Judas despised the sacrifice as well,
    - **John 12:3-6** “Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.<sup>4</sup>Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s *son*, which should betray him,<sup>5</sup>Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?<sup>6</sup>This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”
    - I think this points to the root of the problem, it is a heart condition.
    - Where is the heart, if it were for the Lord, then what offering would be too great, and if it is about wealth, and personal gain, even the smallest offering will be despised eventually.
      - Do we think offering the blind and cripple would have satisfied the Nation to stop lowering their standards there, after all they could still be sold for food, and there was always a dead animal to be brought, it was going to be killed anyway. But first, let's take the fur, we can use that, and some of the meat is good, and the bones can be dried and used as fire fuel, and so on.
- b) They didn't see it as worthy,
  - this is a problem that still persist today,
    - and not just in the Jewish community, but also in the church.

- Would anyone here like to discuss the ways the offerings of the Lord are polluted?

### iii. Why wouldn't we offer them to our Governors,

- a) How would our actions change, if I were to tell us that Sunday morning Queen Elizabeth were coming to church with us?
  - Would we come to Sunday school? Would we show up early? Would we be on our best behavior?
  - What if we were asked to bring a gift? Would we bring something broken? Used? Chipped, or otherwise not useful?
  - How would we conduct ourselves in her presence?
    - Would we maintain discipline? Straighten up and clean our language? Put away our cell phones? Whisper, or pass notes?
- b) How would we be different, this is the question God is asking here,
- c) How do we think the queen would respond to us?
  - Yet, we feel that we can approach the presence of the Lord with the same manner.
  - The Lord calls this action in vs.8 "evil"

### iv. God be Gracious to us, vs.9

- a) this is a sarcastic statement,
  - after this type of sacrifice and attitude, the priest have the audacity to stand before God and ask for Grace,
    - I am glad that God is gracious, but a person engaged in sin, need not expect God to bless them.

### v. Shut the Doors,

- a) Vs.10, the Lord ask the question, is there any among you that see this, and are discussed to the point that you would shut the doors to the temple, to the gate, put out the fire on the altar, and stop accepting offerings.
  - I wonder how man preachers have thought about just not showing up for church just to make a point?
  - I remember a friend of mine, Pastor David. B. was going to do that, but elected to preach about it instead. He made the point they needed people for the nursery, and with no one to help. He was going to do it.
- b) The priest would have benefited Israel more, if they would have taken and closed up the temple, and not allowed anyone to sacrifice rather than to continue to accept the sacrifice that were offered?
- c) **Here is a Question**, Who was at fault, the priest for allowing it, or the people for expecting it?

## B. God's Name Shall Be Great,

### i. Vs.11, God tells What His Desire is,

- a) Israel was chosen to point out the Greatness of God. But the way they were living was not doing that.
  - **Deuteronomy 4:5-8** "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.<sup>6</sup>Keep therefore and do *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.<sup>7</sup>For what nation *is there so great*, who *hath* God *so nigh* unto them, as the LORD our God *is* in all *things that* we call upon him *for*?<sup>8</sup>And what nation *is there so great*,

that hath statutes and *judgments* so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?"

- It is our responsibility to proclaim the greatness of God,
  - other things are secondary.
- b) All some people will ever see is the message we live, and if our message is polluted, then what will people think?
  - And keep in mind where most people will see our message, it is not in the house of God, but in the streets of the world.

## ii. The Table of the Lord,

- a) the sacrifice of the Lord,
  - to be polluted, is to be refuse, desecrate, dung.
  - We already discussed contemptible, to be disdained.
    - This was the attitude of the nation,
- b) This is why the approached it with such disdain,
  - with weariness and snuffed at it.
  - What a tiring duty to serve the Lord,
    - **I John 5:3** "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
      - if we are having problems with it, perhaps it is not the Lord, but US.
  - How do I know you feel this way, look at the offerings you have brought.
- c) Lumping everyone together,
  - did everyone bring a broken or blind offering?
    - I'm sure there were those who brought the proper sacrifice, but there is no middle ground here, it is either in the will of God or it is not.
      - It is either the spotless sacrifice or it is defiled,
        - and does it make a difference if it has a broken leg, or it is blind, or if it simply has one discolored spot on it?
          - It is easy to say, well I am not bring blind sheep, but the real question is, is the sacrifice we bring in the will of God or not?

## iii. Remember Who God is,

- a) **Vs.14** ends with a proclamation of the Greatness of God,
  - the illustration I used earlier about the queen, is still in effect here,
    - do we remember that God is Great, the creator of all things,
    - do we regard Him as Father, or Master.
    - Do we live it out?