

Minor Prophets  
Malachi  
Lesson 2

Text: Malachi 1:1-6

Intro: As we get into this final book of the Old Testament, and the final book in this study, we see a man that is going to hit fast and hard. Malachi is going to touch on subjects that are close to the heart of people. But he is going to start out by reassuring the Love of God. It is easy to speak harshly to people, but as Christians we should also represent God as a loving God, not just one that judges.

I. Don't Question God's Love,

A. Be Sure God does Love You,

i. The Burden of the Lord,

a) Two things here to point out,

- first, it is of the Lord, and as Malachi goes on to touch some very sensitive issues in the christian life, he has the assurance that it is not his opinion, his desire, his philosophy, but the message of God.
  - Often times we need to remind ourselves of this fact, it is of God, not us,
  - wither we agree with it or disagree with it, it is from Him, not us.
    - There is a standard which God has set, and as Christians we have the obligation to try to follow it and become as much like Christ as we can.
      - This means taking off those things which are un Christ like, and putting on those things that are Christ like.
      - The question here arises, about personal feelings and desires, but there are desires that we will have as humans that are against the will of God, we are sinners by nature, and this is why Jesus said,
      - **Luke 9:23** “If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
        - emphasis on deny himself.
- The Second thing, is is can be a burden to speak God's word.
  - As I am sure we will see in this study, people can be offended at the word of God.
    - There are times the preaching of the word can lead to man's anger rising up against the messenger.
      - Stephen in **Acts 7**, they stoned him,
      - **Acts 7:54** “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.”
      - Speaking of tithes and offering is hard for any pastor, but it is in the cannon of scripture, and contained in Gods word, and we must touch it.
        - But there are those who will become offended by it, some of this is brought on by the horrible representation we have had, men who claim to be the messenger of God begging for more and more. But, I think more often than not, it is the conviction of the Holy Ghost that hits a nerve with people, and they take it out in anger with the messenger.
    - Not regarding what the subject is, there will always be some that will be

offended.

- Giving tithes, abstaining from strong drink, following righteousness, turning from the things of this world, many subjects, especially the one's men are addicted to can cause the message to seem like a burden to carry

ii. I Have Loved You,

a) there was apparently a question being asked, "God says He loves us, but Where is the evidence?"

- the question is not that far fetched, Most of us have probably asked the same thing
  - but, this question is only asked when we are not feeling the blessings.
  - A child would never accuse their parents of not loving them while they were at Disney land eating funnel cake. Or engaged in any other activity where the child was experiencing happiness and joy.
  - This question only comes up, when we enter into a hard time, trials and tribulations. And like I said, a lot of us have probably asked the same question.

b) This is going to be the subject of the next few verses, we need to keep that in mind,

- it is not about salvation, but love.
- Remember the nation of Israel was still under Persian rule.
  - They had worship, and the temple, but they had no king, there was a lack of a lot of things they had under Moses, and even David.
  - No more cloud or fire, no more manna, no more king defeating nations...

c) So God is going to point them back to the times they were under the blessings to prove His love,

- all any born again Christian need do to prove the Love of God, is take a look back,
  - **Romans 5:8** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
    - God demonstrated His love...
- How quick the blessings of today fade while we go through a trial.
  - I think of a man facing a storm while to his back to a castle.
  - We forget what God has done,
  - **Psalms 103:2** "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"
    - Often times God would instruct, or people would just take it on themselves to set up some sort of remembrance,
      - Joshua was told to take 12 stones and set them up as a remembrance if their journey over the Jordan.
      - **I Samuel 7** Samuel set up a stone as a remembrance "eben-ezer, here has God helped us.
      - Samuel knew it was good to set up a remembrance for several reasons: to encourage us, to encourage others, to teach, to Show God's faithfulness.
    - It would benefit any of us to set up some sort of remembrance A stone, a letter etc...

iii. Israel Chosen Over Esau,

a) God chooses people to serve in what way He wants,

- **I Corinthians 12:18** "But now hath God set the members every one of them in

the body, as it hath pleased him.”

- But if you follow the passage down, it makes the point that the eye is not better than the ear, or the hands are not better than the feet.
- But each part has a purpose.

b) God chose Israel to be His representative to the World, and carry His divine seed.

- **Deuteronomy 4:36&37** “Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire.<sup>37</sup>And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt; ”
- the Messiah could only come from one nation, God chose Israel.

c) This has nothing to do with how good or bad they are, or how deserving they are,

- God's choice was made before either one of them had a chance to do good or evil,
- **Romans 9:11** (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)
- **Deuteronomy 7:7&8** “The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people:<sup>8</sup>But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”
- in fact, if the call was based on the performance of the two men, the argument could be easily made that Esau was more deserving of the honor.
- But, that is like the old joke about how could God have loved Jacob?

d) I have Hated Esau,

- once again we must remember this is not a passage about salvation, it is about callings.
- The word “hated” is a Hebrew Idiom that means to love less, or to prefer less.
- God clearly “preferred” Israel over Edom.

e) The same argument can be made in Romans 9 where it quotes this passage,

- **Romans 9,10&11** are about the Nation of Israel, not about individual salvation.
- And as we read that, if we try to impose the Nation calling onto an individual, we are taking it out of context.
- As the passages continue, it speaks of the desolation of Esau, but note the name Esau is not about the person but the nation EDOM.
- Edom has tried to make a nation apart from the blessings of God, and it comes to no result.
- On the flip side, the nation of Israel, small and weak, yet they still stand, and have been blessed in many ways.
- This is the proof of God's love toward them which is the point here.

f) No person living out side of the will of God should expect the blessings of God on there lives.

- This goes for the one running from their calling, or the one holding on to sin.

g) Were Edom will pass away, one day (**Vs.5**) Israel will be blessed beyond it's borders.

- **Ezekiel 25:12-14** “Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them; **13**Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword. **14**And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD”
  - Why, because of their relationship with God, and how they treated Israel.
  - Remember, Edom was Petra, the area south of Israel, where the Indiana Jones final crusade movie was based,
    - Edom thought because of their high walls and trails, they were unable to be defeated.
    - But the nation did die out, about 500 B.C. Arabs went into Petra, and destroyed Edom,
- Not only would Edom perish, but Israel would be blessed.
- This must have been encouraging to those hearing it for the first time.
- They were as I said still under Persian rule.
- **Psalm 35:27** “Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.”
- **Exodus 34:24** “For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land ...”