

Minor Prophets
Malachi
Lesson 5

Text: **Malachi 2:10-17**

Intro: Malachi began by speaking to the priest primary. He pointed out the sinful attitude and actions. How they defamed His name, and took their duty lightly. Now, Malachi turns his attention to the Nation as a whole.

I. Profaning God's Covenant,

A. The Lord's Holy Institution, **Vs.10&11**

i. Marrying outside of the Nation,

- a) Let me make this clear, this is not an issue of interracial marriage.
 - This is a matter of the heart of the Nation of Israel.
 - Did God ever condone interracial relationships?
 - Who did Moses Marry? Zippoah, the daughter of Jethro. An Ethiopian woman.
 - Now let's make no mistake about this, Moses was a Hebrew, raised in the middle east, Genetics and environment would have made him dark man, but, he was not Ethiopian. Ethiopian people are black, they have different genetics that that of Hebrews. Going back to Noah's sons.
 - The Hebrew people came form the eldest son, Shem. This is where we get the term Semite.
 - The African people come form the youngest son Ham.
 - But, it was not a matter of their genetics, or their color, it was a matter of their heart.
 - There are a lot of places where we can look into the issue of interracial marriage, Abraham had Hagar, and many other servants that were gifts from Pharaoh, and it goes on to say there was a large number of male servants (318) born into his house (**See Genesis 12&13**)
 - Ruth, the great grandmother of King David was a Moab. The Moab people came form the nephew of Abraham, Lot. One of his daughters that came out of Sodom and his child.
 - Rahab, the Great Great Grandmother of David. She was in the city of Jericho, when the Nation came out of the desert. She was the mother of Boaz.
 - Even of the nation that came out of Egypt, this is what the bible said about it:
 - **Exodus 12:37&38** “And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot *that were* men, beside children.³⁸And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds,*even* very much cattle.”
 - a mixed multitude, part of the Nation...
 - People get hung up on things like Solomon getting judged because of the pagan women he married. But, it was just that they were pagan, it was because he married women that served strange gods.

- Back to Moses and Zipporah, Merriam and Aaron was judged because they came against her.
- God in effect defended her.

b) So the issue here was two fold, first their covenant, and second taking women of strange gods.

- But, the idea of judging because of race is foolish. The bible teaches that in the kingdom, there is neither gentile or Jew, bond or free, and so on. It also teaches that God is not respect of persons.

ii. Breaking their Covenant with God, and their Spouse,

a) vs.10, breaking the covenant of the fathers.

- This is referring to the covenant the children of Israel went into with God.
- The covenant established how the people should live. How they should live with one another, their work esthetic, and even they way they were to marry.

b) First, God saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so He created woman, and told man,

- **Genesis 2:24** “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

- It was god's intention for man and woman to spend their lives together.

- It is referred to as a covenant here, and I think to appreciate a covenant, we need to look at the intent.

- The first aspect is to “Leave” leave the other relationships in order to form the latter. To make the other relationships of less importance than the new one.

- Cleave, it to continually pursue, to work at it to continue to make it stronger.

- And then to become one,

- can you imagine of the men of Israel had taken this literally would have looked at their arm and said, I no longer want this one, I want a prosthetic.

- God directs people to love as self, lift up one another, protect, treat with kindness, and so on. If we would live with one another as God desires us to, then we would never get divorced.

c) So, are there reasons for divorce?

- The bible does give two definitive reasons for divorce,

- First, Sexual Immorality, **Matthew 5:32& 19:9** “**But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.**”

- Second, Abandonment by an Unbeliever, **I Corinthians 7:15** “But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”

- I think most of the other reasons for divorce fall in this area. Such as spouse abuse,

d) But the men of Israel were driven by their passion and put away their wife so they could marry a new woman.

iii. The Second Issue, was Women of strange god's,

a) Like I said the problem wasn't color, or genetic, but a heart condition.

- Laying aside the biblical reason for divorce, the men of Israel were not having legitimate reason for divorce. So there was sin present there.

- But, for the others, the reason it was breaking the covenant with God, is they were marrying women who were unbelievers.
 - **II Corinthians 6:14** “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
 - this is true for Christians today, when seeking a spouse, it is not God's will for a saved person to marry an unsaved person.
 - More often than not, the unsaved will draw away the saved person,
- b) the Nation of Israel had agreed to serve God, to make Him their God, and they would be His people, He would direct them, and they would follow.
 - Is this really any different today for the Christian? We submit our lives over to Him, allow Him to rule in our lives?
 - Which means we submit to the will of God, and begin the transformation process to become like Him?

B. Hypocrisy, Vs.12&13

i. Insincere Worship,

- a) after committing this sin, the nation would bring their offering to the Lord, and weep and cry over it.
- b) This is another example of God not being obligated to bless the lives that are in rebellion to Him.
 - Wither it is in just one are, or if it is in a major area of life. We cannot expect God to bless.
- c) Remember in the time of Jesus, they would speak like the people of God, they would look like them, but their hearts were far from Him.
- d) The person that comes to church, clean, dressed well, speaking the beautiful prayers, knowing their scripture, but their heart is far from God. As soon as the doors of the church are closed, they are out in the world living it up.
- e) God is not talking about loosing salvation here, when it says they will be cut out of the tents, or cut off.
 - This is speaking of the blessings of God.
 - Him hearing and ministering to our prayers.
 - If we want God to answer our prayers, we must begin with an earnest self examination.
 - **I Corinthians 11:28** Paul encourages the church to examine themselves before they take of the Lord's supper.
 - That because there was sin in their lives, some were sick, and some even were dead.
 - Jesus taught in **Matthew 5**, that even if you are bring a gift to the Lord's altar, and while there you remember that someone has ought against you, to leave your gift, and first go and try to make it right.
 - Come with a clean heart.

ii. Purity, Vs.15

- a) this is a difficult verse to understand,
 - and did not God make husband and wife one? Having one God, and why? So they would bring forth godly children.
 - God called Israel to be His people, and He chose to bring the Messiah through them.

- b) But not only for the lineage of Jesus, but God also wants children to know and understand who He is,
 - think about this, it was the job of the Hebrew Fathers to teach their children about God. Jesus told his disciples to not hinder the children from coming to Him. (**Matthew 19:14**)
- c) It is parents job to teach their children about God,
 - and this goes further than just saying because I told you. We teach, and if there are questions, we try to answer the questions.

iii. Hostility, Vs.16

- a) Plain speech is understood, I HATE DIVORCE,
- b) Look at the phrase here “ *for one* covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: ”
 - how many of us in here wear wedding bands?
 - There are many customs of marriage, the breaking of the cup by modern Jews,
- c) For the Hebrews at this time, the marriage was made when the man would take the corner of his garment and place it over the woman.
 - This was covering her with his love,
 - but the way they had put away their wives it had become a symbol of violence to her.
- d) God gives them another warning, one like we have seen in many places, consider your ways, examine yourself, look to see what you are doing,
 - line up your life with the word of God and see where the flaws are?