

Minor Prophets
Malachi
Lesson 6

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

Intro: In this lesson we will continue on in Chapter Two, we did not finish it last week, and in order to do it justice, I wanted to take the opportunity to complete it tonight. After addressing the habits of the Nation, concerning the people they were marrying, and the ease at which they divorced their spouses. The Lord turned again to the arrogance of their worship.

I. Profaning God's Covenant,

A. Hypocrisy, Vs.12&13

i. This Man,

- a) In vs.12, it speaks of the man that does this will be cut off,
 - what is “this”, simply put it is in response to what was just said, the one who married the pagan, and the one who put away their spouse.
 - The sinner,
- b) The words here “will cut off” is one Hebrew word “karath”
 - this word means consume, or perish, it is the exact same word found in **Genesis 41:36** where it speaks of the land will not “Perish”
 - it is also at the heart of the word covenant.
 - Remember the conditions of the covenant. If you will, then I will, but if Not, then I will allow...
- c) It also speaks of the Master and the Scholar,
 - the Master, this is not a political or social standing, but an intellectual standing,
 - the master is someone who has their eyes opened, they understand.
 - We use a version of that today, when someone is naive, we say their eyes are closed.
 - The Scholar, is also one who is in the process of having their eyes opened,
 - just as a student will begin to “see”
 - this one however has a double meaning, it also means to testify, or to announce.
 - So the idea here, is the man that knows better, and the one that claims to know better.
- d) The Tabernacles of Jacob,
 - literally the homes of Israel.

ii. Insincere Worship,

- a) after committing this sin, the nation would bring their offering to the Lord, and weep and cry over it.
 - Let us be careful in this matter.
 - Often it is easy to point at the failures of others,
 - Preachers that were caught in sin, and then publicly repented.
 - But before their repentance they would stand and cry about their blessings. But, this is not just the fallen preachers. We have all come short of the glory of God.
- 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.
 - Why is it people wait until they are caught to repent, but the Lord would want us to Repent because the Holy Spirit burdened our hearts.
- 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.
- The High priest would hire people to give false testimony against Jesus, or to discuss how thy might kill Jesus.
 - They would use their office to take advantage of others.
 - On the outside they looked like all the things a godly person would look like.
 - Their hair, their clothes, their talk, but, if we could see their heart as God does, then we would see something very different.
- 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.
- How many people will go to church this Sunday after a night of drinking? Or after living with someone unwed,
 - How many people come to cry at the altar expecting God to bless them, directly after committing sin?
- 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. Or being covered by the covenant of God's blessings.
 - 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.

iii. Purity, Vs.15

- a) this is a difficult verse to understand,
- First, once again, God is not ambiguous about the reason He is speaking.
 - It is because if the way they treat their covenant relationship with their spouses.
 - In effect, because God has created all, then we are also brothers and sisters.
 - I wonder how many would not be upset if their brother-in-law treated their sister the same way?
 - and did not God make husband and wife one? Having one God, and why? So they would bring forth godly children.
 - God commanded His blessings on the marriage to bring forth children,

- Children are a gift of God. Not an accident, not a problem, not an inconvenience,
 - they may be conceived in sin, or at an inconvenient time, but they are still the gift of God, and we should view them as that.
 - But, for Israel there was even a different blessing that was to come,
 - 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.

iv. 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.
 - This would be equivalent to what happened to the sister of Levi, and Simon,
 - Dianha the sister was taken advantage of, and her brothers in retaliation went to the men, and after they were circumcised, these two went in and killed them.
 - So, the husband that put away his wife for un-biblical reasons, was covering her with violence.
- 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?