

**Malachi: Return to Me**  
**Where is My Honor?**  
**Malachi 1:6-10**



**2024.12.01**  
**Sermon 2 of 8**

1. Intro
  - 1.1 Last week, talked about God's love for His people and for us
    - 1.1.1 Our need to focus on His promises
  - 1.2 Declaring His love was to setup His accusation
    - 1.2.1 Their unacknowledgement of His love shows the state of their heart
    - 1.2.2 God's choosing of the people of Israel could have resulted in a beautiful thing
      - 1.2.2.1 It didn't catch God by surprise - He knew what it would be
      - 1.2.2.2 All their failings and shortcomings are part of the picture
    - 1.2.3 We get to see God's heart through interacting with His people
      - 1.2.3.1 His plan of salvation is made evident in His relationship with Israel
  - 1.3 **Malachi 1:6-10** and Pray

## 2. Message

### 2.1 **Malachi 1:6a**

- 2.1.1 Consider two relationships
  - 2.1.1.1 Father
    - God has called Himself the Father of Israel

### **Exodus 4:22**

<sup>22</sup> Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn."

- They know the law, 10 commandments

### **Exodus 20:12**

<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

- It was expected in their culture to follow this Law
  - Failed to see it's spiritual application, just physical practice
  - Paul points out that this is the first commandment with a promise - long life
- 2.1.1.2 Servant
    - Israel is called to serve God in a specific way

### **Deuteronomy 10:20**

<sup>20</sup> You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name.

- The tribe of Levi was called specifically to service

### **Numbers 16:9**

<sup>9</sup> Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them...?

- This is an honor, something to be satisfied in
- 2.1.2 Both relationships - they forgot God's grace
    - 2.1.2.1 Israel/Jacob is son by nothing but love and grace
    - 2.1.2.2 As a master, He is patient and generous
  - 2.1.3 Order of these relationships is important
    - 2.1.3.1 How should the people relate to God?
    - 2.1.3.2 How does God want to relate to them?

- 2.1.3.3 Father comes first
  - Relationship of father and children is rooted in love
  - He wants that closeness with the people
  - His honor - glory - should be displayed in love and response
- 2.1.3.4 If not, then at least as Master of the universe
  - Creator of the universe deserves reverence
  - Reverence - terribleness, terror
  - Jesus Himself said it

### **Matthew 10:28**

<sup>28</sup> **And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

- If not out of love, at least out of understanding of His sovereignty and power
- People don't like to talk about it, but true
- If you agree with God that you're a sinner and you need to be covered, then you agree to a good thing
- God doesn't want you to stay there!
- His desire is to adopt you into His family

### **1 John 3:1**

<sup>1</sup> **Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!**

- Perfect love casts out fear
- Trembling fear is replaced with reverent awe
- We don't forget that God will judge sin and wickedness, but we don't fear it
- Instead we see that He sent His Son to take that punishment
- He looks on us, clothed in Christ's righteousness
- Invites us into His throne room, holds us in His everlasting arms

#### 2.1.4 Lord of Hosts

2.1.4.1 24 times in Malachi

2.1.4.2 First time last week - **Malachi 1:4-5**

2.1.4.3 Sabaoth

- Almighty, hosts
- Armies, organized and effective
- Sovereignty, creation's organization and continuation
- Often used in context for comparison
- In v4-5, strength against Edom, and the many nations that will praise Him
- In v6, "Where is My reverence?" - I am the Lord of Hosts
  - Does He not deserve to be feared?

## 2.2 **Malachi 1:6b-7a**

2.2.1 Last week/section, God speaking to all of Israel

2.2.2 God addresses the priests specifically

2.2.2.1 Attitude of the priests permeates the nation

2.2.2.2 Priests scoff, believe they've done nothing wrong

2.2.2.3 God offers the evidence - defiled food

- Soiled, desecrated, polluted
- Most likely the grain offering which must be unleavened

- Leavening causes it to spoil faster
- Symbolic nature of unleavened bread - fleeing Egypt

#### 2.2.2.4 Grain offering was free-will offering

- Death is the result of sin, so grain offering wasn't for covering sin
- The people's free-will offering was not according to the Law
- Why even bring it?

#### 2.2.2.5 They retort again

- Feels like a kid who's old enough to know the difference and is being technical

### 2.3 Malachi 1:7b

#### 2.3.1 God's looks away from the soiled offering, points to the attitude

##### 2.3.1.1 State of heart precedes the action

#### 2.3.2 Contemptible - hateful, despicable

##### 2.3.2.1 Look upon the altar and their work as something they despise

#### 2.3.3 God's altar should have been loved

##### 2.3.3.1 Not a pretty sight - blood and flesh

- Representing the cost of sin and its nastiness

##### 2.3.3.2 Fire and sacrifice covers over sin

##### 2.3.3.3 The priests are eye witness to God's covering

- Like a doctor who's jaded and doesn't care

### 2.4 Malachi 1:8

#### 2.4.1 They viewed the altar as contemptible, and so sacrificed subpar things

#### Leviticus 22:20-22

<sup>20</sup> **Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf. <sup>21</sup> And whoever offers a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it. <sup>22</sup> Those that are blind or broken or maimed, or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar to the LORD.**

#### 2.4.2 Clear commandment about what should be sacrificed

##### 2.4.2.1 The burnt offering, that of an animal, was the covering for sin

- This should have been taken seriously

##### 2.4.2.2 Contempt led to apathy - couldn't be bothered

##### 2.4.2.3 Because the priests didn't care, the people wouldn't bother

##### 2.4.2.4 Perfect animal is worth something, for selling or breeding

#### 2.4.3 God suggests they try this with their governor

##### 2.4.3.1 Sarcastic suggestion

##### 2.4.3.2 Two-fold: misordered respect, God's patience

#### 2.4.4 Lord of Hosts again

##### 2.4.4.1 Compare to the local governor, or the King of Persia

- Their might is nothing compared to God

##### 2.4.4.2 He commands hosts of heaven - uncountable angels

##### 2.4.4.3 He is sovereign over all creation, over kings and rulers

### 2.5 Malachi 1:9

#### 2.5.1 Entreat carries the idea of grieving, to be sorry

##### 2.5.1.1 Throughout the bible - if man repents, God relents

#### 2.5.2 If they continue on this path, they invite judgement

2.5.2.1 The Jews know this, they proudly teach it as it pertains to gentiles

2.5.2.2 Assume they are above it

2.5.3 God is not pleased with the priests

## 2.6 **Malachi 1:10**

2.6.1 Is there even one close enough to God to realize he should just shut the door?

2.6.2 God would rather the doors to His house be shut than for contemptuous sacrifice

2.6.3 “Kindle fire on My altar in vain” - literally useless fire

2.6.4 When God confronted David about Bathsheba

## **Psalms 51:16-17**

**<sup>16</sup>For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— these, O God, You will not despise.**

2.6.5 “I have no pleasure in you” shows where the priest’s hearts are - far from God

2.6.6 Their sacrifices are becoming an abomination

2.6.6.1 Similar to days of Isaiah

2.6.6.2 Over 100 years before destruction of Jerusalem, God sent Isaiah

2.6.6.3 In 400 years, they will be performing their sacrifices while the Son of God walks among them

2.6.6.4 Their stubbornness not changed - they will accuse Him and deliver Him to the Romans

## 3. Closing

3.1 Why is all of this so important to God?

3.1.1 Why did their sacrifices have to be done so specifically?

3.1.2 Turn to **Hebrews 10**

3.2 Everything about sacrifice was to point to the Messiah

3.2.1 A disabled animal dies the same way a perfect one does

3.2.1.1 The only acceptable sacrifice for a soul is a perfect life

3.2.1.2 The perfect animal points to the perfect Christ

## **Hebrews 9:13-14**

**<sup>13</sup>For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

3.2.2 It was all meant to point to Christ

3.2.2.1 Blood, death, sin and covering

3.2.2.2 The nastiness of it, the separation by the veil

3.2.3 **Hebrews 10:1-23**

3.3 Another application directly to us

3.3.1 Our attitude before the Lord in His calling

## **Revelation 1:6b-7a**

**5 ...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

3.3.1.1 Not replacement theology, the church does not replace Israel

3.3.1.2 Christians are to bear witness of His sacrifice and love, extended to everyone

3.3.2 Look at God’s Word to the priests

3.3.2.1 Despising His name, defiling His altar

- 3.3.2.2 You can see it in churches all around, and in Christians
  - People twisting God's Word - for legalism or liberalism
  - They don't care to know God or His Word, just use the language for comfort
  - Just going through the motions cause that's what Christians do
  - "I was baptized as a baby, I'm good with God."
- 3.3.2.3 One that hurts me most, end of v7 - 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.'
  - I pray against ever feeling that way about serving God
  - I love serving God, I can't express how much I love it
  - You can ask Jamie, it costs our family something
  - We talk about it, pray about it
  - Even if I overextend myself, there's nothing about it I hate
  - I've been serving in church for longer than I can remember - at least 7 years old
  - I've done lots of different "jobs"
  - Not a single one have I found contemptible
  - Not everything is my favorite, but if there is a need, I'm going to do it
  - God has given me everything, why would I hold anything back?
  - It isn't my place to tell God no - if He puts it in front me

#### 3.4 Bringing it back to how God relates to us

3.4.1 I don't feel this way because I feel afraid of God

3.4.2 Instead, I focus on the things I know

#### **1 John 1:9**

**<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

3.4.3 I know I'm forgiven, that He chooses to remember my sins no more

3.4.4 I know that I was dead in my sin

3.4.5 I know Christ took the punishment I deserved and it went to the cross with Him

3.4.6 I know that I am made alive again in His resurrection

3.4.7 I serve God in every way that I can because He is the Lord of Hosts

3.4.7.1 He is mighty, stronger than all my battles and fears

3.4.7.2 He is designer and creator, He set the heavens into motion and controls it all

3.4.8 He is so big and powerful and mighty, beyond comprehension

3.4.9 He looked upon me and was moved with compassion

3.4.9.1 I love Him because He first loved me

3.4.10 Not some disconnected, abstract love

3.4.10.1 He is my Master

3.4.10.2 He tells me to call Him Father, "Abba"

3.4.11 This is my experience with God

3.5 I prayed last week, beginning of this book, that we would look introspectively

3.5.1 Is there something I am holding back from God?

3.5.2 Am I finding serving Him in some way to be contemptible?

3.5.3 Let our prayer be that we would abandon ourselves in worship and service

3.5.4 In my service, am I letting sin blemish it?

3.5.4.1 Apathetically serving

3.5.4.2 Consider the witness of your service

3.5.4.3 I have personally encountered this many times

- Servants or leaders who find no joy in their service to God

3.5.5 The priests disdain for God's altar affected the whole nation

3.5.5.1 Our attitude in service is infectious

3.5.5.2 Either good or bad

3.5.5.3 Are we serving God knowing that it is part of our witness?

- Not that it is our main motivator - loving response to God
- But we should realize and take seriously its testimony
- If service to God is a burden to us, we have some serious soul searching to do

3.6 Prayer and Last Song