

02 Malachi – Where Is My Honor

In the book of Malachi, the Lord was not pleased that they were bringing blind, sick, and even stolen sheep to be offered for sacrifice. "Where is mine honor?" That is the question the Lord is asking all through the book. Malachi is the last prophet of the Old Testament giving the nation its final chance to repent and honor God.

Malachi 1:6-14 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? [7] Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible. [8] And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts. [9] And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the Lord of hosts. [10] Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. [11] For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts. [12] But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the Lord is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible. [13] Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it ! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord. [14] But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

Why was it so important to God that they bring their very best lamb to be offered as a sacrifice? It was pointing to the day when the Father would offer the best He

had, His only begotten Son, as the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. To bring a crippled, or sick, or even a stolen lamb would greatly cheapen and dishonor the future sacrifice of the Son of God upon the cross.

Of course, we don't offer animals on the altar today. After Jesus the Son of God has shed His blood once and for all, and placed His blood on the mercy seat, can you imagine the sacrilege, the dishonor, of offering the blood of an animal on top of it? That would be abomination! The blood of Jesus is enough.

What would be the modern-day equivalent of us honoring God by offering our best to Him as a sacrifice?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

God wanted it to cost them something to make that sacrifice, because it would cost the Father His only begotten Son. The parallel is perfect because it will cost you something to say no to the flesh in order to present your body holy unto the Lord. Prayer and fasting are tools the Lord has given us to help offer our bodies holy.

Matthew 9:15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

In Romans 12:1, Paul said I beseech you ... therefore: That means, based on all that Paul had written in the first eleven chapters about the mercies that God had bestowed upon us, now it is our turn to offer Him our body as a living sacrifice. Offer it holy unto Him ... so it will be acceptable by Him ... for His use.

Dave Roberson, "We don't fast so our voice will be heard on high. We fast so His voice will be heard on low." Fasting longer than three days causes such a "quietness" within you, it becomes really easy to hear God's voice.

Remember, God would not accept those spotted, broken, sick, blind offerings in the book of Malachi. Look at Romans 12:1 again because ... he will not accept the offering of our body unless we offer it to him ... holy ... so it will be acceptable for His use.

God made our spirit holy at the new birth. But it is up to us to force our body into holiness. It is our responsibility, our reasonable service, to offer our body ... holy ... so it will be accepted by Him for His use. Holiness is a byproduct of maturity. As your mind is renewed, it thinks like Jesus!

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Jesus presented His body holy to the Lord every day, even though He was tempted in all points as we are. My natural self says, "But that was Jesus. I can't do that." That is an unrenewed mind talking. A renewed mind speaks in line with the word of God:

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Making statements that agree with those kinds of verses demonstrate what a renewed mind is like. Our mind is transformed ... metamorphized ... to the mind of Christ.

Holiness doesn't earn us "miracles." Remember what Peter said after the lame man was healed:

Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

Presenting our body holy to the Lord is simply our "reasonable service." It is the natural product of maturity. Jesus presented His body holy, so the Father could freely work through the body of Jesus. We are becoming like Jesus in maturity.

"Father, this body is my living sacrifice to You. I have hand fed this body. I have great affection for it. But I am offering it to You, Father. And I am offering it holy so it will be accepted by You for Your use."

All of this is part of growing up, maturing, having our mind renewed to think like Jesus. We are beginning to think like mature children of God.

My body doesn't like fasting, but "I" do. The real "me" does. The real, born again, child of God that I am likes fasting because it is one of the tools given to me that helps me keep my body holy, so I can offer it to the Lord on a continual basis.

Remember the "therefore" in Romans 12:1. One of the "therefore's" that Paul already taught is in Romans chapter eight.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Holy Spirit ALSO helps us against our fleshly weaknesses. The Holy Spirit ALSO helps us keep our bodies holy, so we don't yield to temptation. One of the ways He does it is through those groanings that we don't know how to pray as we ought. But He does. He is our HELPER!

Every time you decide not to watch television for the next two hours, and pray instead, that is ALSO a method of offering your body a living sacrifice. Your body does not like spending time praying in the Spirit.

But when you offer yourself for the next two hours in prayer, you are ALSO presenting your body a living sacrifice.

We honor our Father when we present our body as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable for His use in the kingdom of God. It really is our "reasonable service."