

03 – Malachi – Honoring The Father

Review:

Of course, we don't offer animals on the altar today. 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. Jesus presented His body holy to the Lord, even though he was tempted in all points as we are. The natural mind says, "But that was Jesus. I can't do that."

This is where the next verse comes in. Statements like that are from an unrenewed mind. Part of the process of presenting your body a living sacrifice is spending much time meditating in the Word of God and praying in the Holy Ghost.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Jesus said He was sending us the same way the Father had sent Him:

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

As always, the pattern set for us is Jesus. John G. Lake said it this way:

The gospel of Jesus is as simple as can be. As God lived in the body and operated through the man Jesus, so the man on the throne, Jesus, operates through His body, the church, in the world. Even as Jesus Himself was the representative of God the Father, so also the church is the representative of Christ. As Jesus yielded Himself unto all righteousness, so the church should yield herself to do all the will of Christ. John G. Lake

The second sacrifice - Praise

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Acts 16:23-26 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: [24] Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. [25] And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. [26] And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Modern Christians in America are so spoiled and have such an entitled attitude, they are like little children who take every blessing for granted. But God would say, "Where is my honor? Where is the fear of the Lord?" in this modern generation.

People seldom stop to give God praise when things are going great, much less when trouble appears in their life. It is fairly easy to praise God when you are walking in every blessing. But what about when trouble comes? Listen to these words from the prophet Habakkuk:

Habakkuk 3:17-19 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: [18] Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. [19] The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

The third sacrifice - Giving With Proper Motive Can Be A Sacrifice Accepted

Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Philippians 4:10-19 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. (11) Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. (12) I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (13) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (14) Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. (15) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. (16) For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. (17) Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. (18) But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. (19) But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Did you ever notice that the famous verse 13 was spoken in the context of kingdom finances? Basically, Paul is saying, "Whether you give or not, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Notwithstanding ... you have done well to send a gift to help me."

No church communicated with me concerning giving and receiving. Why not?

1. Paul did not teach the 100-fold return the same way it is taught today.
2. Paul did not teach his ministry was mature "good soil" and they would get a financial return by giving into it.
3. Paul did not teach "sow a seed to meet your need" the way it is taught today.
4. Every church would have been giving into Paul's ministry if he had been teaching those things.

Philippians 4:14 But it was right and commendable and noble of you to contribute for my needs and to share my difficulties with me. AMPC

This was not a tithe. Paul is not the pastor of their local church. This is a love offering for the work of the ministry. The "fruit" that Paul wanted added to their

account was ... souls. They remembered Paul and Silas did not leave the prison after the earthquake opened the doors and loosed them from the stocks. Why didn't they leave? Because there were more souls to be saved, including the jailor and his house.

The Philippians knew that if you gave money into Paul's ministry, the end result would be souls won into the kingdom of God, and lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fourth Sacrifice – Our Words

Malachi 2:17 Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him ? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

This is what God wants:

Malachi 3:16-18 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. [17] And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. [18] Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Do you honor God with your words? Do people sense hope, faith, and love when you spend time with them? Or do your words paint pictures of gloom and doom, as though God was failing us.

Do your words paint hope on the canvas of the hearts of people you meet? Are people encouraged and motivated to serve God even stronger than before after they spend time talking with you?

Is God pleased, and honored, by your words? Let us honor our Father with our words and make sure our names are in that book of remembrance in heaven.