

04 – Malachi – Give Glory To His Name

Malachi 2:1-2 And now, O ye priests, this commandment *is* for you. (2) If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay *it* to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay *it* to heart.

Notice the rebuke is primarily directed against the priests, the leadership. They have not held to the truth of God's word. They had watered down the word of God to make it more appealing to the flesh. An example from chapter one ... they allowed the people to bring blind, broken, sick, and even stolen sheep to be offered. God said they should have "shut the doors" instead of allowing people to do such dishonor to God and His word.

I will send a curse: Remember, these people were under the law of Moses. They were under the blessing and cursing system of the law. If they disobeyed the law, they were under the curse of the law. It could come in many forms such as drought, famine, locusts, war with neighboring countries, and so forth.

I will curse your blessings. I have cursed them already. He will turn your blessings into a curse. The things which should have been a blessing, would rather result in their continued falling away. To the proud, the things that lift them up, such as the adoration of men. To the glutton, having an abundance of food. To the greedy, having too much wealth. If these blessings are not used to glorify God and His name, they only work to exalt the flesh and hasten the downfall even faster.

1. Remember the rich man and Lazarus. His earthly wealth continually fed the greed and self-centeredness within him. His blessings of abundance ultimately were a curse, resulting in his eternal damnation being tormented in flames of fire ... forever.
2. In context, the rich man in that story was referring to the rich Pharisees, who loved the adoration of the people as they looked up to them, but who in truth cared nothing for the people at all. Jesus is warning them that if they do not repent, they will wind up in hell forever.

Modern equivalent to preachers today ... if you lose your first love ... if you fail to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness ... church growth itself can become a curse. That is especially so if you have become "seeker friendly" by removing the gifts of the Spirit from your services, or compromising God's word about sin, repentance, righteousness, and holiness.

You can compromise a little and still make heaven, but as if by fire. But if you compromise to the point you take away the born again experience from the people, you yourself will burn in the lake of fire ... no matter that you pastored a church of many thousands.

1 Corinthians 3:11-17 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13) Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. (14) If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. (15) If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (16) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (17) If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

"defile" and "destroy" are the same Greek word in verse 17. Strong's G5351 = corrupt, destroy. Thayer's = 1b) to lead away a Christian church from that state of knowledge and holiness in which it ought to abide.

"If you destroy God's temple, God will destroy you."

This is the pattern the Pharisees would follow in the future, teaching the traditions of men instead of the pure word of God. Just one example ... changing the law so the Pharisees could receive the money that should have been used to support elderly parents. It was theft ... pure and simple. Much worse than normal thieves because they were twisting the word of God to steal provision away from elderly parents. God forbid!

Mark 7:9-13 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. (10) For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: (11) But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is Corban*, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; *he shall be free.* (12) And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; (13) Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Malachi 2:3 Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, *even* the dung of your solemn feasts; and *one* shall take you away with it.

I will corrupt your seed = your crops will fail. A typical curse of the law.
I will spread dung from your solemn feasts on your face = According to the law, the dung of the sacrifices was normally carried outside the camp and burned. The priests were allowing the people to bring defective sacrifices and God was saying ... you can have the sacrifices back along with the dung that was in them.
Shall take you away with it = You are in danger of being taken out of the land, like dung, by a foreign power if you do not repent. This is something God had prophesied to the house of Jeroboam ... it happened then, and it can happen again.

1 Kings 14:10 ... and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

Malachi 2:4-7 And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. (5) My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him *for* the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. (6) The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. (7) For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he *is* the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

In this passage the Lord says plainly what He desired from the Old Testament Levitical priesthood. That they would fear the Lord, honor Him, and bring glory to His name by faithfully teaching the people the word of the Lord. Notice the phrase

"The law of truth was in his mouth." By not compromising the pure word of God, Levi turned many away from iniquity. Praise God. Levi said what God said. Levi was a faithful messenger of what God had spoken.

This is a type and shadow of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus plainly told us He did not originate the teachings He spoke. He was simply saying what the Father said. Jesus did not add to, nor take away from what the Father said. Like Levi, Jesus was a faithful Messenger of what God had said.

John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine [What I Teach] is not mine, but his that sent me.

John 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Malachi 2:8-9 But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. (9) Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law.

They were being partial in the law by trying to please the people instead of God. By watering down the word of God, their blessings had turned into a curse ... because the people no longer had any respect for them.

It is the same today. The people have lost respect for the vast majority of preachers today who tell them sin will not separate them from God, that they can continue in their lifestyle of sin and still make heaven, and so forth. Church attendance in America continues its downward trend because there is no power demonstrated in such a watered down gospel and ... deep down ... the people know they are not hearing the truth.