

10 – Malachi – Life Lessons From Malachi

I have loved you. God is love. God always wanted a family and ever since Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, God has been working to get His family back.

Esau and Jacob are types of Adam and Christ. Edom was the land of Esau and it was destroyed never to be rebuilt. The world is the land of Adam and it will be destroyed by fire, to the point the elements will be dissolved. For Christ and His brethren, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Be sure you live in holiness as children of God NOW, because you want to be living on that new earth THEN.

They were supposed to bring their best lamb and sacrifice it on the altar. Christ is the Lamb of God. His blood has washed us clean forever. We don't bring lambs to sacrifice. **We present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, and acceptable for the Master's use.** He did not accept their unholy offerings then, and He will not accept our bodies in unholy form now. ACCEPTABLE MEANS HE ACCEPTS IT.

We are to bring sacrifices of praise in both good times and bad. We are continually to offer thanksgiving and praise as the fruit of our lips.

Paul said sacrificial giving for the sake of the gospel was also an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

The priests in Malachi's day were supposed to teach God's Word accurately. They did not. We are supposed to speak the truth in love, no matter the consequences. Our words are to be with grace, seasoned with salt. Don't love people into hell by withholding the truth from them.

They married daughters of strange Gods. We are told to keep ourselves from idols in 1st John. They worshipped Baal then, and through many avenues the people of the world are seducing people away from the one true God to worship foreign gods through media, drag queen story hour, gay pride parades, etc. They are coming after our children. Do not be seduced by "the strange woman." Read about her in the book of Proverbs.

God plainly tells why He made them male and female. He wanted godly children. Marriage and the family unit is God's design. A father, a mother, and children. There is nothing in God's purpose for sex between a husband and a wife outside of the marriage covenant. All sex outside of that kind of a marriage is perversion. It is sin. God hates divorce, but divorce is not the unpardonable sin. Monogamy with husband and wife is His plan.

Where is the God of Judgment? The people in Malachi's day were blind to their own sin. They should have thanked God that He did not judge the wicked the way they wanted Him to. He is no respecter of persons. He would have judged them too. BECAUSE HE CHANGES NOT, THEY

WERE NOT ALREADY JUDGED AND CONSUMED! In Matthew 7:1-5 Jesus teaches us to judge ourselves first.

When The God of Judgment came, He took our judgment upon HIMSELF. If you receive the sacrifice of Jesus and surrender to His Lordship, you will be saved. He is the only sinless human. He is the only one who could pay the price for your sin. You can never pay the price for it. That's why hell is forever. Receive Jesus or be in judgment for all eternity.

Tithes and offerings. When the law of Moses was given, Israel had no earthly king. God was their king. He was their government. God wanted full time ministers, the priests and the Levites. God wanted there to be provision in the temple to feed the full time ministers, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. The tithe and the offerings were much like taxation, owed to God, to provide for these things. It was not optional, just like taxes today are not optional.

Conditions for prosperity. God promised to open the windows of heaven and give them the needed rain for their crops to grow. He promised to supernaturally protect the crops from insects and disease so they would have good harvests. In other words, God would provide for them **CONDITIONS FOR PROSPERITY.** But they still had to plow the fields, sow the seeds, do all the work of farming and harvesting. For us that translates to ... **GET A JOB LAZY MAN!**

We are owned. We are bought with a price. In our covenant it is not a matter of how much we give. It is a matter of how much we keep. Jesus taught us to have the attitudes of stewards when it comes to money. God loves a cheerful, obedient giver. He watches how we steward money in the kingdom of God. If He finds us faithful in stewarding money for the kingdom of God, He promotes us to higher levels of responsibility. **GOD WATCHES OUR GIVING. LET US MAKE SURE OUR GIVING HONORS GOD. "WHERE IS MY HONOR?"**

"Your words have been stout against Me." Jesus said,

Matthew 12:36-37 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. (37) For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

God listens to your words. Let us be of those who fear the Lord, that think upon His wonderful name, and who speak to each other often about Him. Let our words always speak in line with the Word of God. Remember **Matthew 4:4 Man shall live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**

God had sent the prophet Malachi to warn the people to repent because God saw the same patterns emerging again that caused the nation to be destroyed before.

God sent John the Baptist about 400 years later to warn the people to repent and for them to receive the Messiah. Those who did became Christians and changed the world. Those who did

not were severely judged.

In AD 70 a great judgment came upon the nation. The Romans destroyed the temple to the point not one stone was left upon another. The people were dispersed to the point where the nation did not exist for 2,000 years.

There is an even more severe judgment coming. It is the Great White Throne Judgment. It will be the judgment of the living and the dead. All whose name is not found in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire. **MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE!**

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

WHERE IS MY HONOR? Let us be the people that honor God by presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto Him, which is our reasonable service. Let everything we say and do bring honor and glory to His name.