



Series: The Minor Prophets

Lesson: 60. Malachi, pt. 1 – Unrequited

Love

Passage: Mal. 1:1–2:9

- **Introduction to Malachi**

- Author: Name means ‘My messenger’
- Date: Most likely 450–430 BC
- Themes:
 - The importance of our hearts and our faithfulness even during less ‘exciting’ times
 - The danger of losing trust in God and treating religion lightly
- Written in disputation format

- **God Was _____ to Israel (vv1:1–5).**
 - God confronts Israel’s false belief that He no longer _____ them.
 - God proves His love for Israel by contrasting their treatment with Edom’s (cf. Rom. 9:13).
 - Israel should trust that their blessings are secure no matter what by seeing Edom’s fate is sealed no matter how hard they try.
 - Israel will realize He’s in charge of _____ forces over them, not just their internal affairs.

- **Israel’s Priests Were _____ to Him (vv1:6–14).**
 - God is both Father and Master to Israel, yet He receives none of the _____ either one would deserve.
 - He indicts the priests for allowing _____ sacrifices.
 - He calls out their _____ by noting they wouldn’t treat human leaders this way.

Matt. 10:28 – Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- Not giving a sacrifice is better than giving an insulting one!
- God's name deserves better and will receive better (cf. 1:6, 1:11, 1:14, 2:2, 2:5).
 - The glory of God is the central concern of the universe, so detracting from it is always a big deal!
- The priests not only allow bad sacrifices, but even actively _____ the ritual.
- Those bringing insincere offerings aren't off the hook either (cf. Acts 5:1–11).
- **God Will _____ Failing Priests (vv2:1–9).**
 - If they continue to be unfaithful, He would declare them 'unclean' for service and remove them.
 - He bases this on the covenant with _____ (cf. Num. 18; Jer. 33:21; Neh. 13:29).
 - He would clear out any unfaithful priests to make room for new ones so that He could still use them to fulfill that covenant and serve the people.

- Those priests were misleading the people.
 - By failing to uphold and teach the Law, they were misrepresenting YHWH Himself.
 - They were doing this by showing _____.

What Do We Do with This Text?

1. Instead of questioning God when our faith seems like a struggle, we should be questioning _____.

2. We shouldn't wait for God to act to take our _____ seriously.

3. Spiritual responsibility has _____.

Blanks: Faithful, loved, outside, Unfaithful, respect, unworthy, hypocrisy, disdain, Punish, Levi, partiality, ourselves, religion, consequences