

Malachi - what to do when it seems God has abandoned you.

How have I despised God? **Malachi 1:6-2:9**

Worship

God deserves it - The word comes from being worthy of honor

God seeks it - *John 4:23 ... The Father is looking for those who will worship*

God rejoices it proper worship but denounces false

In the Old Testament God gave Israel great festivals for worship

Passover - thanksgiving at time of barley harvest

Pentecost - thanksgiving at time of wheat harvest

Tabernacles - thanksgiving at time of fruit and vegetable harvest

Two standards for offerings of worship

First - first fruits, first born, first share of crops & *Best* - unblemished,

But the people of Malachi's time had corrupted worship

I. First charge - You despise my name **1:6-8**

Despise means 'to look down upon something as worthless

Honor is due a father and a leader- but none given to God, both Father and Master

Response - "how have we despised you name

Answer - By not giving according to the standard of God

Defiled food - offerings

Blind, lame and sick animals offered to God

Not even fit to be given to human leaders

Correction **1:9-11**

Seek God's favor

Ask forgiveness from His grace

Recognize Him of Lord of the Armies of Heaven

Praise His name - to be great among all nations

From morning till night

From east to west

Offer pure offerings -Pure from a pure heart

II. Second charge - You are profaning my name **1:12-13**

Profane means common - literally "outside the Temple"

It is the opposite of Holy, that which is given to God

Response - The altar is defiled and all on it

Human empowered worship is not and cannot be pleasing to God

Answer - You profane my worship by the following

1. Making worship a drudgery - a duty not a joy
2. Sniffing or snorting - disgust and complaints
3. Offering "what is by robbery" dishonest gains

4. Bringing lame or sick animals

5. Hypocrisy - saying you are giving best but not doing so

IV. Correction - Honor God as the great King that He is **1:14**

Name to be respected by all nations

V. God's response to false worship is a curse **2:1-9**

God cannot be mocked, *Galatians 6:7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.*

If God is not honored in worship He will send a curse

1. It will affect **our children** - know what is important to us
They will not want to come
2. It will **take away your life and peace** in worship
We will endure and not enjoy worship
3. **Many will be turned off** to real worship
We will not invite others to join us
4. **Followers will stumble** in their walk with the Lord
We will cause others to sin in indifference

Questions I need to ask myself about my worship

Do I come to worship the King of Kings?

Do I expect to meet with God and hear from Him?

Do I give my first and best attention to worship?

Is coming to worship a drudgery or a joy?

Do I give my whole mind and heart to worship?

How can I make my worship pleasing to God?

1. Preparation -

Rest well and come with expectation

In Old and New Testament often fasting was the preparation

2. Humble myself before Him

We are very needy of a touch from God

Come to worship aware of our needs

3. Total attention to God's Word to us

Set aside the worries of the week

Focus on listening to God Determine to hear and to heed

4. Sincere prayer

For God to be glorified, For the needs of others, For my own needs

5. A determination to walk in the light given

My attitude must be speak Lord and I will obey

Ask for ways to apply the truth in my life