

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

Is God concerned about us? Malachi 2:10-3:12

Is God interested in day to day life - or is He just too busy?

Does it matter how we treat others? Why is there so much injustice in the world? Does He care what we do with what we have?

Malachi says God is vitally interested in every area of our lives

He is interested in Marriage, Justice and Money use

Review Malachi 1:1-5 Doubting God's love leads to indifference

Malachi 2:6 -2:9 Corrupt worship brings a curse

Worship that despises the Holiness of God

Worship that profanes the Name of God

God is a God of covenants - meaning a coming together. It presupposes two or more parties who come together to make a contract, agreeing on promises, stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities. It is used variously in biblical contexts. God made covenants with Noah Genesis 9, Abraham Genesis 12. Moses (actually all of Israel) Exodus 19 and David 2 Samuel 7. Of course Christ fulfilled all of these covenants through His life, death and resurrection Hebrews 9.

But man breaks the covenants of God to his own detriment

I. Man Dishonors the covenant of marriage 2:10-16

God calls it treachery or deceitfulness

A. Through marriage to unbelievers

This brings Israel to false worship of foreign gods

B. Through breaking the marriage covenant

Discarding the wife of their youth

Divorce -It breaks His covenant - See Ephesians 5

It destroys His civilization, It damages His children

C. God's answer

Take heed of your spirit - repeated in verse 15 and 16

Watch your attitude -your attractions - your affections

II. Man Defiles the covenant of justice 2:17- 3:6

A. God's charge

- you have wearied me calling good evil and evil good

God's decisions cannot be changed by man

B. God's answer

1. His messenger - John the Baptist All called to repentance

2. The Messenger - Jesus Christ -Will make a way open for all

who believe, Will do all to redeem mankind

Purifying as a refiners fire, removing the stain of sin like a fuller's soap

3. Final Judgment

Against false religion, covenant breakers, liars -

Against oppressors - of widows, orphans, foreigners

III. Man Defrauds the covenant of grace 3:7-12

A. Man refuses to return to God's plan

He robs God of what belongs to Him

B. Returning to God a portion of all He gives us

100% of what I have comes from God

He asks for a portion to be returned to His work

To show we love and trust Him

To allow Him to be our source and joy

(is tithing still God's standard or is it only the Old Testament law?)

Mentioned before the law was given

Tithes were given by the patriarchs Abraham (**Genesis 4:17-20**) and Jacob (**Genesis 28:22**); a system of tithes was instituted in the law of God given through Moses (**Deuteronomy 12; Deuteronomy 14 Deuteronomy 26**); and the prophets rebuked the children of Israel for failing to give the tithe to God (**Malachi 3:8**).

Acknowledged as good by Christ in Matthew 23:23

Proportional giving was promoted in New Testament

Standard was changed to heart condition - God loves a cheerful giver

C. God's challenge - "Test me now in this"

Promises: Windows of Heaven's blessings opened

Blessing beyond our ability to contain them

Rebuke of that which steals our goods and our peace

Promise of the acclaim of all the world

God does care about our lives!!

Marriage given to fulfill and enhance our lives

Justice for all - especially the poor, orphan and foreigner

He is concerned about how we honor Him with our blessings

Are you dishonoring God?

Defiling His justice

or defrauding His promises?

You only harm yourself

You hinder the blessing He wants to pour out on you

You hinder others from seeing what a loving God we serve

Test Him!!

He can bless your marriage with happiness and fulfillment

He can protect your peace in this very unjust world

He can meet your needs as you honor Him with your blessings