Complacent Service to God

Jeff Trahan · Malachi 1:6–2:9

INTRODUCTION

- We have a tendency as human beings to make commitments that ultimately we do not fulfill.
- They may not quit altogether, they may not just walk away and never come back, but they quit giving God their best at some point.
- The people of Malachi's day were assembling, and they were engaging in acts of worship, but they were not giving God the kind of honor that a great king deserves.

1 God Is Not Honored by Second-Rate Offerings

Malachi 1:8; Matthew 6:33

- God is not honored by second-rate offerings.
- The people in Malachi's day, they were offering animals as sacrifice to God that were sick, or they were lame, or they were blind.
- God has always expected the very best that a person has to give, and nothing less than that.
- He wants what people offer to him to come from the top, rather than from the leftovers at the bottom.
- He knows that second-rate offerings are never the result of first-rate devotion.

2 God's Not Honored with Half-Hearted Worship

Micah 6:3; Malachi 1:10

- God's not honored with half-hearted worship, either.
- The priests were acting like service in the temple was a tedious obligation, rather than an awesome privilege.
- They were still going through the motions of worship, but they were doing so with a have-to kind of attitude, rather than a want-to attitude.
- God would rather have no worship at all than to accept our half-hearted worship.
- We need to see worship and service to God as a great privilege that we enjoy rather than as a great burden that we have to bear.

3 God Is Not Honored by Watered-Down Teaching

Deuteronomy 17:1; 2 Timothy 4:3

- Our God is not honored by watered-down teaching.
- The lips of a priest should guard knowledge and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.
- Whom are we trying to please? Whose opinion of our work is most important to us?

- God's not honored when we water down his word. When we change the standard, that doesn't bring honor to him.

4 God Is Worthy of Honor

Malachi 1:11; John 4:21–24; 1 Peter 2:9

- Despite the fact that there were those who dishonored God in the days of Malachi, just as there are those today who do the same thing, God is worthy of honor.
- From the rising of the sun to its setting, my name will be great among the nations.
- The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.
- God raised up a new priesthood to replace the one that had become bored with him.

5 Take It to Heart: Make the Choice to Honor God

Mark 12:30

- We serve a God who is worthy of honor, and that's something that we, as his people, have to take to heart.
- Honoring God is a deliberate choice.
- The way we honor God is by giving him our best. Not just giving him something, but giving him our best.
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, with all your strength.
- Our best is not only what God deserves, but it's also what he wants and what he expects as well.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you been giving him your best? You know the answer to that question.

MY NOTES