

“A Call to Honor God”
“God’s Unchanging Love” — Part 2
Malachi 1:6-14

***To the degree we recognize the greatness of God,
the impeccable character of God, and the
flawless attributes of God; to that degree,
we will recognize our own inadequacies,
falseness, and diluted worship.***

1. Honor God in your profession of faith.

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, 'How have we shown contempt for your name?' "You place defiled food on my altar.

"But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?"

Malachi 1:6-7

God’s name was the disclosure of His being, His attributes and His authority.

The name of God was dishonored in two ways:

First, polluted men and women cannot offer pure sacrifices.

Second, men and women offered polluted gifts.

Summary: Not only were the priests professing faith, *“We honor our Father and fear our Lord,”* but their actions and attitudes declared everything to the contrary. By accepting defiled food for sacrifice, they devalued who God was, and by sacrificing defiled food, they desecrated everything for which the sacrificial system stood.

Application: It was then, and is now, a matter of priorities when we worship the living God. God inspects our hearts before He looks at what we have brought in our hands. Does your life and your profession match up?

...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

John 4:23

2. Honor God with your gifts.

"By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty. "Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"-says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 1:8-9

God judges the gift by what it costs the giver, not by the intrinsic value of the gift.

If the gift means little to us, it will therefore mean little to God.

Summary: It was not that Israel and her priests were not givers; they gave, but what they gave was the leftovers!

"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:3-4

Application: How is it that Jesus praised the widow who gave only a few pence? The Lord weighs the gift by inspecting the heart of the giver.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

3. Honor God in your service.

"Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you," says the Lord Almighty, "and I will accept no offering from your hands. My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty. "But you profane it by saying of the Lord's table, 'It is defiled,' and of its food, 'It is contemptible.'

Malachi 1:10-12

So distasteful were the unauthorized sacrifices offered by the priests that God suggested closing the doors of the Temple.

It was better to close the doors than to serve God with pretense.

Summary: When service is offered apart from the purpose and goal that God has in mind, it is useless.

Application: There is a kind of bland Christianity that does not worship the God or Jesus of the Bible. Such religion is futile. There is also worship that is rote and unthinking. It too, is futile.

4. Honor God with your time.

And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the Lord Almighty.

"When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the Lord. "Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the Lord Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations.

Malachi 1:13-14

Boredom had become the outcome of hypocritical ministry.

No longer was ministry a joy and it could be spotted in their words, their attitudes, and their deeds.

Summary: The person who wanted to be known as spiritual vowed one thing but gave another. Only a desire to be something in the eyes of others, that one is not in their own heart, could lead to this type of showmanship.

Application: The church today has plenty of men who have concluded that the pastoral ministry is a burden and they have decided to leave the ministry. The problem is just as acute among the laity. Men and women have decided that they have served their time and now it is time for others to serve them. In both cases we serve for the wrong reason and with the wrong attitude.

My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 1:11

***Our God is a great God and
we must honor God with our profession,
our gifts, our service and our time.***

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:15-17