

11-30-22 - First Southern Baptist Church Malachi 1

Themes/ Relevant

Leadership - priests (mostly next week)
 Divorce
 Does God love me?
 Election - Israel and Esau
 Giving to God - best/ worst/ stewardship
 Blessing and Cursing
 Names of God
 Prediction of John the Baptist
 Matthew 11:10 - "I will send my messenger"
 Mark 1:9 - Jesus baptized
 Luke 1:17 - "he will come in the spirit of Elijah"

Verse 1 - The "burden" of the Lord

-oracle
 -prophecy
 At 3:1 "Malachi" is rendered "messenger"

Verse 2

I have loved you...
 How have you loved us?
 -an insolent challenge
 -implying they have no evidence of His love
 -sneering or despairing? Attitude?
 -ingratitude
 I have loved Jacob and hated Esau
 As proof of His love He points to Israel versus Esau
 "Hated" vs "Loved" - hyperbole (like "hate" mom and dad - Jesus)
 -Leah was "hated" by Jacob - Mt. 10:37a
 "Elected" - for service, not for honor
 Israel is chosen (not because they are the best) and not to save
 Israel is chosen to be a blessing to the nations
 Skepticism or hopelessness or wickedness
 1) Began to neglect services and offered poor animals - 1:8, 13-14
 2) Tithes were kept back (3:8-9)
 3. Became less concerned about maintaining identity - they intermarried - with
 lost
 4. Nations moral and ethical standards declined - sorcery, perjury, adultery,
 oppression (3:5)
 Mock God by throwing His words back in His face:
 1) "How has thou loved us?" - 1:2
 2) "How have we despised thy name?" (1:6)
 3) "How have we polluted it (the altar)?" (1:7)

4) “Why does He not (accept our offering)?” (2:14)

5) “How have we wearied Him?” (2:17)

6) “How are we robbing Him?” (3:8)

7) “How have we spoken against thee?” (3:13)

How do we act when God does not do for us what we feel He ought?

Verse 3

Esau have I hated and Jacob have I loved

Esau’s neglect is a permanent thing

Verse 4

Building up and tearing down of God

Build up without God

-“let’s leave God out of this”

“I will throw down” - Babel

Attitude resulted in deeds - “deeds reveal character”

Verse 5

An honored name versus a despised name - among the nations

Other nations will see and respond - God will lose favor

Introduces the wider view - the heathen

Verse 6

My name

Titles without honors

“Father” - if I am, honor?

“Master” - if I am, honor?

Heathen philosophers taught that children should honor parents

1. The law of nature - consistent

2. The law of God

3. The law of civility - offer it to your governor

Priests are responsible - two charges

1) they failed in their mission to teach the law (2:1-9)

2) shown contempt for God in their sacrifices (1:6-14)

God’s name is mentioned six times - twice in 6, three times in 11, and once in 14

-“hallowed” be thy name

At verse 6, the idea of the “name of God” comes into play and continues throughout the chapter

An indifferent and irreverent attitude toward their ministry

Verse 7

How have we defiled you? - attitude

God expressly forbade the offering of inferior sacrifices - Lev. 22:20

Polluted bread on your table - contaminated, impure, imperfect or blemished

-like serving rotten food to your guests

What’s involved with their cull offerings?

- the very name of God
- dishonor of God
- reflects our attitude
- other nations despise
- disrespect of God

“Is it not evil?” - KJV

God wants their best - God deserves our best -God received their worst

Verse 8

Lame - outward

-no heart

-half-way devotion

Offer it to your governor

Looking for loopholes in our service to God (stewardship)

The people brought them because they knew the priests would accept them

Grudging sacrifices

Verse 9

He tells the priests to get right

The offering becomes trivial - the spirit behind the gift becomes suspect (the heart)

Verse 10

Is there a volunteer who will close the temple doors?

He definitely rejects this offering

The priest thought that poor sacrifices (given grudgingly) were better than no sacrifices at all

Verse 11

My name will be great among the nations

Three views:

1. Eschatological view - this will happen

2. Dispersion view - this speaks of dispersed Jews

3. Literal approach - dishonest worship would not stack up to honest worship of Gentiles

The worship beyond the city is pure

-by comparison, the heathen are sincere in their worship

Verse 12

What a burden - God's service is burdensome (attitude?)

Man's estimate - a burden

God's estimate -

Verse 13

A cheap religion, costing little, is rejected by God and so is worth nothing.”

Does God “reject” my offerings?

Cheat God - deceive Him

Should I accept them at your hands?

Rejected - why?

1. Because they offered in difference
2. Because they offer with spirit of deception
3. They offered in a spirit of falsehood

What we think to be great is very little. What we think will be acceptable may be rejected

“Sniff” at it contemptuously - spirit of boredom

Verse 14

Shows they have no respect for God

“Cursed”