

## How Have We Despised Your Name?

### Malachi

#### Introduction:

- I. If you would ask many Christians if they felt like they despised God, what answer would you expect to receive?
  - a. Most would say, “Of course I don’t despise God. I am a Christian!”
  - b. However, Malachi’s message would tell us otherwise. He is talking to his (then) nation, Judah. This message is also applicable to his current (Christian) nation.
    - i. 1:6 – You have despised my name.
    - ii. 2:13 – I do not accept your worship because of your faithlessness.
    - iii. 2:17 – You have wearied me.
    - iv. 3:8 – You are robbing me.
  - c. To each of God’s accusations, the people answered, “How have we done this?”
    - i. If you were to examine the book of Malachi and compare it to our society—and even to many Christians—you would see the same questions to be asked today!
    - ii. How have we done this?

#### Discussion:

- I. We have despised his name. How?
  - a. Mal. 1:6-8 – “And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if ye offer the lame and the sick, is it not evil?”
    - i. cf. Leviticus 22:21-25 – Maimed sacrifices will not be accepted!
      1. What part of your life do you give God?
        - a. Is it *\*only\** the part that you cannot spend doing other things?
  - b. Luke 21:1-4 – Jesus has been watching the wealthy Jews put in their donations to the temple.
    - i. Many have put in a lot of money, but the widow only two “lepta” (a copper coin worth 1/128 of a day’s wages). Why did she put in more?
  - c. Luke 9:23-25, 57-62 – We must deny ourselves!
    - i. It is not that we just wear a different name. We must *be* different!
    - ii. We must be whole-hearted. Nothing should come between us and following Jesus.
      1. Security...Cares for worldly relationships...Family
        - a. None of these!
- II. Our worship is pointless because of our faithlessness. How?
  - a. Mal. 2:10-17 – God hates divorce!
    - i. Matthew 19:3-9 – There is only one valid reason for divorce: marital unfaithfulness!

- ii. Why do you suppose God hates divorce? Might it be because it is a breach of a covenant, or a false oath?
  - 1. Matthew 5:33-37 – We follow through with what we promise, but we need to recognize that we do not have the power to promise without breaking some! We are human, susceptible not only to God’s will, but also to chance.
  - 2. Proverbs 6:16-19 – Notice that two of these seven things involve lying. Two of them involve a mind that does not intend to do what is right (which is behind lying). Therefore, lying is something that God truly cannot stand!
    - a. Titus 1:2 – It is against God’s nature to lie. It is one thing he *cannot* do!
    - b. Revelation 21:8 – “ALL liars shall have their part in the lake of fire”
      - i. Not “all liars who also murder,” or anything else. Lying is enough by itself!

### III. We are robbing God.

- a. Malachi 3:8-10 – We talked Wednesday night about Isaiah 55.
  - i. We work all week long to gain money to spend on things that do not satisfy, when all along we are offered something that is free and *will* satisfy, yet we do not take it.
    - 1. John 4:13-14 – Whoever eats or drinks physical food and drink will need it again.
      - a. However, if we feed on the Scriptures, the milk and meat of the Word of God, we will have satisfaction in abundance!
      - b. It is all about the attitude!
  - ii. They were withholding from their giving to God because they felt they could not do without their full tithe.
    - 1. “and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open to you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room to receive it.”
      - a. Many times we treat worship as though it takes away from valuable time we have
        - i. Rest, Work, Run errands, etc.
      - b. What sense would it make for me to say, “Lunch is the only break I get at work...I’m not going to spend it sitting at a table eating!
        - i. Is lunch not much more effective if you eat it!?
- b. Yet, we rob God by not bringing to worship all of our effort.
  - i. Matthew 22:37-40
    - 1. We make worship and Christianity something that serves us rather than God.
    - 2. This verse shows us that our love for God drives everything else we do in life.

c. This applies to the different parts of worship.

i. I Corinthians 11:20-22

1. This is our main purpose for meeting on the first day of the week!

a. We know this because Paul reprimanded the Corinthians for *not* coming together for the Lord's Supper when they came together!

i. They came together, but not for the Lord's Supper!

b. We also have another example—Acts 20:7.

i. The disciples came together on the first day of the week “to break bread.”

2. 23-29 – If we do not pay close attention to our purpose here, especially when taking the Lord's Supper, we are not only wasting our time. We are celebrating our own destruction.

ii. Ephesians 5:19

1. We must sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord, Giving thanks to God for everything we have.

a. This is how we become filled with the Spirit (18). It starts with gracious, deliberate singing!

iii. I Corinthians 16:2

1. Paul was going to take up a collection for the church at Jerusalem, where there was a famine at the time. He did not want the Corinthians to wait until the last minute to store up money for the church at Jerusalem, so he told them to store up on the first day of every week! They were already meeting for the Lord's Supper anyway, so why not use the same time to give?

2. II Corinthians 9:6-8

a. This resembles what we read in Malachi. If we give generously, we will have plenty! If we are stingy, we will barely get by. We must give cheerfully, not because we feel like we have to.

d. This also applies to the Christian life.

i. Matthew 15:1-9 – They had taken a command made to prove God's holiness, and they made it a ritual with no godly facet at all. Their worship was in vain, trying to serve men rather than God.

ii. Colossians 2:23 – Some worship-like acts seem to be very religious, but they are only for show. They only resemble true spirituality.

1. When we serve ourselves, and only occasionally deny ourselves (so as to feel like we are living for God), our worship has no meaning! →Conclusion