

My Messenger – Part 2
Malachi 1:6-14: “I am a Great King”

THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM: GOD NOT HONORED AND REVERED AS GOD. v.6-10

1. **God is due honor and reverence because of who He is (I am a ‘father’, I am a ‘master’). v.6**
 - God named his relationship with Israel as a Father-Son relationship. Ex 4:22; Hosea 11:1; Deut. 1:30-31
 - The command to honor our parents is based upon proper honor/respect given to God as Father. Ex 20:12
2. **The priests were dishonoring God by not giving Him the best. v.7-10**
 - They were despising God by offering “polluted food” as worship to God. **v.7**
 - Levitical law required animal sacrifices to be ‘without blemish’ and ‘perfect.’ Lev. 22:17-21
 - Blind, lame, and sick animals were specifically named as unacceptable sacrifices. Lev. 22:22-25
 - They were offering blind and lame animals to God and expecting Him to show them favor. **v.8-9**
 - This type of ‘sacrifice’ God calls “evil” (twice in v.8).
 - This type of ‘gift’ is not appropriate for an earthly ruler—let alone for the LORD. v.8b
 - In God’s eyes, this kind of ‘sacrifice’ is a waste of time. **v.10**

THE PRIORITY OF GOD’S WORSHIP. v.11

1. **The ‘fear of the LORD’ in Malachi 1:6-14.**
 - v.6: ‘where is my honor...where is my fear?’
 - v.11: ‘my name will be great among the nations’ (2 Xs)
 - v.14: ‘I am a great King...and my name will be feared among the nations’
2. **The call to full and complete worship of the LORD.**
 - All day – ‘from the rising of the sun to its setting’
 - All nations – ‘my name will be great among the nations’ i.e., the Gentiles
 - All places – ‘in every place’
 - All heart – ‘a pure offering’

HALF-HEARTED WORSHIP OF GOD. v.12-14a

1. **Half-hearted worship is profane. v.12**
 - It becomes profane – to treat something sacred with abuse, irreverence or contempt. Profane → profanity.
2. **Half-hearted worship is arrogant. v.13**
 - It becomes ‘weary’. ‘...you snort at it...’ Idea: ‘you turn up your noses at it’
3. **Half-hearted worship becomes a curse on the ‘worshiper’. v.14a** Ref. 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - It becomes hypocritical—to vow the best to God, but then choose to give Him what is ‘less than best.’
 - Ecclesiastes 5:4-5: *When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.*

APPLICATION

1. **Worship is about the WHO. v.14b** → ‘For I am a great King...and my name will be feared among the nations.’
→ The WHO at the center of worship is God’s Messenger, Jesus Christ!
2. **Jesus fulfilled the OT Levitical Law by being the perfect sacrifice.** Psalm 24; Mal 4:2; Heb 10:1-4
 - Malachi wrote of a coming day of righteousness—not through our works or sacrifices—but through His.
 - John 1:29, 36: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
3. **We offer our bodies and our service as sacrifices to God.**
 - Romans 12:1: *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*
4. **New Testament worship that is ‘approved by Jesus.** John 4:23-24; Luke 21:1-4; Luke 7:36-50
5. **A few guiding principles of worship...**

