

My Messenger – Part 4

Malachi 2:10-3:5: Faithless in Relationships

BACKGROUND

1. God's people had grown complacent and lukewarm awaiting the coming Messiah.

2. In Malachi, God is calling His people to repentance and change.

- 1:1-5: God begins the conversation with, "I have loved you..." (v.2).
- 1:6-14: Half-hearted WORSHIP. Remedy → Return to the priority of God in worship (v.11).
- 2:1-9: Unfaithful to the WORD. Remedy → Return to true instruction of God's Word (v.4-7).

UNFAITHFUL IN RELATIONSHIPS. 2:10-16; 3:5

1. Summary of the problem. v.10

- "faithless to one another"

2. Their unfaithfulness was shown by intermarrying with the other nations. v.11-12

- NOT an issue of 'racial purity' but of spiritual purity. Ref. Nehemiah 13:23-27
- In the same way, Christians in the NT are called only to marry other Christians. 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

3. Their unfaithfulness was shown by not remaining committed in marriage. v.13-16

- The marriage relationship is a sacred covenant. v.14
- Marriage involves a spiritual union between husband and wife. v.15
- To break a marriage relationship is an act of violence. v.16

4. Their unfaithfulness was shown in their social relationships. 3:5

- Sorcery. Connecting to spiritual forces that are not of the LORD. Ref. Galatians 5:20 Gk. *φαρμακεία*
- Adultery. Breaking a marriage covenant.
- Swearing falsely. I.e., Lying
- Oppressing workers in their wages; Oppressing widows, orphans, and aliens.

THE LORD FAITHFUL IN RELATIONSHIPS. 2:17-3:4

1. Israel's accusation toward the LORD. 2:17

- Either: God will bless us in our unfaithfulness. (I.e., God will just 'overlook' our sin. God is 'happy' with us.)
- Or... Why do the 'bad guys' always get away with it? (I.e., not realizing they are the ones sinning!)
- Where is the God of justice? → When will He show up? Why isn't He keeping His promises?

→ God is the One who keeps His promises...

2. God's response: I will send my Messenger... He is coming. 3:1

- But before He comes... He will send a messenger → John the Baptist.
-OT prophets (Malachi 4:5; Isaiah 40:3); Gospels (Mt 3:3; Mk1:3; Lk 3:4; Jn 1:23); Jesus (Mt 17:10-17)
- After him, Jesus Christ, "the messenger of the covenant" will bring the Kingdom. Ref. 4:1-6

3. God's response: I will refine and purify My people. 3:2-3

- Jesus, God's messenger, will refine and purify a people for Himself.
-Picture #1: Refiner's fire—used to purify metals like gold and silver through a process of burning.
-Picture #2: Fuller's soap—used to make clothes white and clean.
- Philippians 1:6: And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

4. God's response: I will be pleased with the offering of My people. 3:4

→ Because of our sin, there is only one way we can be made pleasing to God: through faith in Jesus because of His death on the cross.

- Romans 5:1: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

-Handel's *Messiah* "He Shall Purify". "And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness."