



Giving God Our Best.... and Why That Matters

January 9, 2022

Let's look at Malachi chapter one:

Background—

5th century BC, about 100 years after Cyrus of Persia had issued the decree of 538 BC, which permitted the Jews to return from exile to Judah. The Temple had already been rebuilt in 515 BC. Everything seemed to be back in religious order. Or, so thought the Jewish people. God, on the other hand, had a very different opinion.

He was amazed at the horrible way they were treating Him.

Malachi 1:6—“A son honors his father and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” says the Lord of Host to you. O priests who despise My name. But you say, “How have we despised Thy name?”

God wonders where is the honor and respect that He is due.

Malachi 1:7—“You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled Thee?’ In that, you say, ‘The table of the Lord is to be despised.’

Malachi 1:8—“But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts.

The truth is, you could get more money at the marketplace for an unblemished lamb than you could for a diseased lamb. So they sold the good lambs and offered the sick or lame ones to the Lord.

Have you ever given the Lord a lame offering?

The Priests were defiling the altar by allowing this kind of sacrifice to go on.

Malachi 1:9—“But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 1:10—“Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the Lord of hosts, “nor will I accept an offering from you.”

God would rather have no offering at all than a lame one.

Our offerings to the Lord should show the Lord honor. Giving God our leftovers does not honor Him.

Malachi 3:7—"Return to Me, says the Lord."

Malachi 3:8—"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings.

Are you robbing God?

The tithe belongs to the Lord. It does not belong to you. It is the Lord's property.

Leviticus 27:30—"...all of the tithe of the land, the seed of the land or the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord."

Malachi 3:9—"You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!"

The people of God during the days of Malachi were experiencing defeat because they were taking the Lord's tithe and spending it any way they wanted to.

Malachi 3:10—"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."

Honor the Lord and bring the tithe into the storehouse.

Malachi 3:11—"Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the Lord of hosts.

Some of you are thinking, it just won't work. God says, **"Test me in this."**

God will enable you to do more with 90% than you can do without His help with 100%.

What are we trusting in?

When we stop trusting in God, we stop honoring God.

Honor the Lord in your worship. What will be your offering in 2022?