

July 7, 2019

## **“Who Cares? – Malachi: God’s Wake-Up Call”**

A Series in the Book of Malachi

### **“Who Cares? – God; Worship Matters”**

*“The LORD of Heaven’s Armies says to the priests: ‘A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. If I am your Father and Master, where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have shown contempt for My name!’” Malachi 1:6a*

#### **A. How we worship matters to God...**

*“If I am your Father and Master, where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have shown contempt for My name!” Vs 1:6a*

1. God expects our honor and respect in worship.  
God is our Father and our Master.

*“A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master.” Vs 1:6b*

2. God expects a perfect sacrifice as defiled sacrifices are showing disrespect.

*“You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on My altar.” Vs 1:7a*

3. God expects our best in what we offer Him.

*“When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn’t that wrong? And isn’t it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased? Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.” Vs 1:8*

4. God will not show favor when we have not honored Him.

*“Go ahead, beg God to be merciful to you! But when you bring that kind of offering, why should He show you any favor at all?” asks the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.” Vs 1:9*

5. God is clear that we might as well close the doors if we are going to offer our inferior sacrifices.

*“How I wish one of you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, ‘and I will not accept your offerings.’” Vs 1:10*

6. God will not tolerate excuses.

*“You say, ‘It’s too hard to serve the LORD,’ and you turn up your noses at My commands,’ says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. ‘Think of it! Animals that are stolen and crippled and sick are being presented as offerings! Should I accept from you such offerings as these?’ asks the LORD.” Vs 1:13*

7. God will not tolerate dishonesty.

*“Cursed is the cheat who promises to give a fine ram from his flock but then sacrifices a defective one to the Lord. For I am a great king,’ says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, ‘and My Name is feared among the nations!’” Vs 1:14*

#### **B. Careless worship...**

*“As you enter the house of God, keep your ears open and your mouth shut. It is evil to make mindless offerings to God. Don’t make rash promises, and don’t be hasty in bringing matters before God. After all, God is in heaven, and you are here on earth. So let your words be few.” Ecclesiastes 5:1-2*

1. Careless worship dishonors God.
2. Careless worship is being bored with God.
3. Careless worship is not costing us anything.
4. Careless worship fails to see the greatness of God!

#### **C. God calls us to give our best...**

*“...I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.” Romans 12:1*

1. Your gift of worship reflects your level of love.
2. Your gift of worship reflects your level of what you value.

3. Your gift of worship reflects your level of what you believe.
4. Your gift of worship reflects your level of what is first in your heart.

*“... The LORD doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7b*

#### **D. Worship matters to God...**

*“With all my heart I will praise You, O Lord my God. I will give glory to Your name forever,” Psalm 86:12*

1. Make worship a priority in your life.
2. Make worship God-centered.
3. Worship with your heart, not just your lips.
4. Prepare for worship before you come.
5. Be on time for worship.
6. Bring your Bible for worship.
7. Listen carefully to the Word.
8. Be a participant not a spectator.
9. Expect something! You will get what you expect.

*“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.” Romans 12:1-2*

*The Message*

Next week:

July 14: *Malachi 2:1-9*

**Who Cares? –God; Leadership Matters!**

July 21: *Malachi 2:10-16*

**“Who Cares? –God; Relationships Matter!” Part 1**