

July 14, 2019

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

A Series in the Book of Malachi

“Who Cares? – God; Leadership Matters”

“The words of a priest’s lips should preserve knowledge of God, and people should go to Him for instruction, for the priest is the messenger of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.” Malachi 2:7

A. God’s anger is evident as...

“Listen, you priests – this command is for you! Listen to Me... or I will bring a terrible curse against you. I will curse even the blessings you receive.” Vs 2:1-2

1. They refused to give glory to God and to listen to His Words.

“Listen to Me and make up your minds to honor My name,” Vs 1

2. They have followed their own way.

“But you priests have left God’s paths.” Vs 2:8a

3. They have caused others to stumble.

“Your instructions have caused many to stumble into sin.” Vs 2:8b

4. They have corrupted the covenant of the Levites.

“You have corrupted the covenant I made with the Levites...” Vs 2:8c

5. They have shown favoritism in how God’s instructions were represented.

“For you have not obeyed Me but have shown favoritism in the way you carry out My instructions.” Vs 2:9b

6. In the New Testament, God has called all of us to the priesthood of believers, as Jesus Christ has become our High Priest. So all of our lives need to reflect God to the world around us!

“And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What’s more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.” 1 Peter 2:5

7. As we represent Jesus to our world, we must not only hear...we are called to put into practice what we hear!

“But don’t just listen to God’s Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” James 1:22

B. God calls each one of us to...

“The purpose of My covenant with the Levites was to bring life and peace, and that is what I gave them. This required reverence from them, and they greatly revered Me and stood in awe of My name.” Vs 2:5

1. God calls each one of us to honor God.

So, is God seen in what you do and what you say? Is His character seen in you?

2. God calls each one of us to listen to His Word. Listening implies responding and obeying; are you listening to His Word?

3. God calls each one of us to live as God’s people.

Is your life different than the world around you? How is it different?

4. God calls each one of us to be His messengers. God expects each one of us to represent Him, to be His ambassador. Do you represent Him in all you do and say?

“They passed on to the people the truth of the instructions they received from Me. They did not lie or cheat; they walked with Me, living good and righteous lives, and they turned many from lives of sin.” Vs 2:6

C. When covenants are broken, God is not obligated to fulfill His promises ...

“So I have made you despised and humiliated in the eyes of all the people.” Vs 2:9a

1. God expects truth from His people!
2. God expects us to keep our promises!
3. God expects us to be honest in our speech and actions.
4. God expects us to turn from a lifestyle of sin.

“They did not lie or cheat; they walked with Me, living good and righteous lives, and they turned many from lives of sin.” Vs 2:6b

D. Make this covenant with God, and promise to do your best to keep it!

“The purpose of My covenant... was to bring life and peace...” Vs 2:5a

1. I can’t do everything, so it’s okay to say no.
2. I will speak with purpose.
3. I will only make commitments I intend to keep.
4. I will clean up my broken agreement at first opportunity.
5. I will follow through on commitments I have made even though it may require sacrifice, work, and cost.

“Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution, long after the excitement of the moment has passed.” – Robert Cavett
“Your life works to the degree you keep your agreements.” –Werner Erhard

“This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there’s not a trace of darkness in Him. If we claim that we experience a shared life with Him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we’re obviously lying through our teeth – we’re not living what we claim. But if we walk in the light, God Himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God’s Son, purges all our sin. If we claim that we’re free of sin, we’re only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins – make a clean breast of them – He won’t let us down; He’ll be true to Himself. He’ll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing. If we claim that we’ve never sinned, we out-and-out contradict God – make a liar out of Him. A claim like that only shows off our ignorance of God.” 1 John 1:5-10
The Message

Next week:

July 21: *Malachi 2:10-16*

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