

July 21, 2019

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

A Series in the Book of Malachi

“Who Cares? – God; Relationships Matters” Part 1

*“So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”
Malachi 2:16b*

A. God calls us to be faithful because He is faithful...

“Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes His unfailing love on those who love Him and obey His commands.”

Deuteronomy 7:9

“God will do this, for He is faithful to do what He says, and He has invited you into partnership with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:9

“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise.”

Hebrews 10:23

“The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.” Lamentations 3:22-23

1. God calls us to be faithful in our relationships.

“Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors?” Vs 2:10

2. God calls us to be faithful to Him in our relationship choices.

“Judah has been unfaithful, and a detestable thing has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. The men of Judah have defiled the LORD’s beloved sanctuary by marrying women who worship idols.” Vs 2:11

“Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?” 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

3. A covenant is a chosen relationship in which two parties make binding promises to each other. God made an Old Covenant and a New Covenant.

Old Covenant

“For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep His commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in His ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.” Deuteronomy 30:16

Promise of New Covenant

“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow My decrees and be careful to obey My regulations.” Ezekiel 36:26-27

New Covenant

“Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

4. God calls us to be faithful in our marriages as marriage is a covenant.

“You cry out, ‘Why doesn’t the LORD accept my worship?’ I’ll tell you why! Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows. Didn’t the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are His. And what does He want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.” Vs 2:14-15

B. Marriage and divorce...

“‘For I hate divorce!’ says the LORD, the God of Israel. ‘To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty’ says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. ‘So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.’” Vs 2:16

1. God hates divorce.
2. God does not hate divorced people.

3. Divorce is not the only thing God hates. God hates sin!

“There are six things the LORD hates – no, seven things He detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family.” Proverbs 6:16-19

4. God does not forbid all divorce.

“But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.” Matthew 5:32

“But if the husband or wife who isn’t a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the believing husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for God has called you to live in peace.” 1 Corinthians 7:15

C. Practical ways to keep your marriage covenant...

1. Take responsibility to grow spiritually.
2. Stay committed no matter what.
3. Set up some practical hedges of protection.
 - Avoid flirting
 - Don’t be alone with the doors closed with a member of the opposite sex
 - Watch what you watch
 - Be careful how you touch the opposite sex
 - Share as much as needed to build trust
4. Commit to communicate with each other.
5. Think the best of your spouse.
6. Be a servant to each other.

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Next week: July 28: Dr. JoAnne Lyon