

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD THROUGH WORSHIP PT. 2
DOES IT MATTER HOW I WORSHIP GOD (The Book of Malachi)
February 25, 2023

TEXT—Malachi 1:1-5

Background/ Theme—The prophet Malachi ministered to Israel 4 centuries before Christ (460 BC). The temple and the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt after the exile to Babylon in 586 BC. Temple worship was restored but true worship wasn't. The people were backslidden, the priests were worldly, and the nation was far from God.

1-OUR TREATMENT OF OTHERS (Mal. 2:10-16). True worship of God is displayed in how we treat both our families and our neighbors. Israel's unfaithfulness to God led to their unfaithfulness to their covenants of marriage.

>Our treatment of our families

1a-They were faithless by marrying those who didn't worship the Lord (**Mal. 2:11**).

1b-They were faithless by mistreating their families through wrongful divorces (**Mal. 2:16**).
2 Cor. 6:14).

>Though divorces happen, we don't encourage divorce. We want to fight for and promote the covenant of marriage. The goal is to glorify God in our marriages. Yet there are certain allowances within the narrow confines of scripture that may warrant the severing of the marriage covenant: death (**Rom. 7:2**), infidelity (**Mt. 19:9**), the unbeliever leaves (**1 Cor. 7:15**), or physical abuse (**1 Cor. 7:15**).

1 Jn. 1:9; Rom. 4:7-8

>Our treatment of our neighbors (Mal. 2:17-3:5) 1 Jn. 4:20

2-OUR PERSONAL MOTIVES (Mal. 1:6-2:9). God wanted His people to give their best and give their all in their worship of Him because He's worthy of nothing less! **>Giving our best (Read Mal. 1:6-2:9).** Malachi rebuked the priests for condoning lame, blind, & sick sacrifices to the LORD.

>Giving our all (Mal. 3:6-12). Israel doubted God by failing to bring tithes and offerings which the Law commanded to support the ministry of the priesthood.

Lk. 21:1-4; 2 Cor. 9:7-8

3-OUR APPROACH TO GOD (Mal. 1:2-5). To truly worship God we must come to Him based on who He is and how He has revealed Himself through His word.

Eph. 1:3-6; 2:4-5

>Worship is Fearing God-Malachi assures the grumbling people that evildoers will not escape divine justice, but God will deliver those who fear Him (**Mal. 3:13-4:3**).

Ps. 34:7-9

>Worship is Hoping in God (See Mal. 4:4-6). Israel was to look back at God's law to remember their holy God and themselves as His people. They were also to look forward in hope to God's prophet who would come and prepare the way for the Messiah.

Mt. 11:13; Mt. 3:1-3; Jn. 14:6