

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



## Malachi Part-2 (chapter 1:6-14) KJV

11.01.2023

1:6-14

## (Blemished) Sacrifices to God

**Blemished Sacrifices (6-8):** What is God's burden about offering of sacrifices? What was missing in the sacrifices? What does scripture say about sacrifices? Who should be blamed for polluted sacrifices ... priests and/or people? Why is the comparison to father/son and offering food to governor relevant?

**Response to blemished sacrifices (9-14):** How does God deal with deceptive and weary worshippers? How can we undo the consequences of faulty practices? Will the worship of God ever stop?

**Reflection:** What do we learn about the character of God from this passage? What type of sacrifices does God expect from us today? Are we also guilty of offering blemished sacrifices?

# Burden of the Lord

1 The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi.

## God's burden for Israelites:

Temple was rebuilt but former glory missing

Practices without passion (lukewarmness)

Low moral standards

Unable to listen to and obey God's voice

Failure to learn from history of God's love & chastisement

# Unique style of Malachi

Statement



Objection



Response

**Statement (by God):**

I have loved you (1:2)



**Objection (by people):**

Wherein hast thou loved us? (1:2)



**Response (by God):**

I loved Jacob and I hated Esau  
(1:2-5)

Last week

# Today

## Statement (by God):

Priests have despised my name (1:6) Ye offer polluted bread (1:8)

## Objection (by people):

Wherein have we despised thy name? (1:6)  
Wherein have we polluted thee? (1:8)

## Response (by God):

Consider the quality of your sacrifices (1:7-8)

# Blemished Sacrifices (6-8)

What does God expect?  
What were priests offering?  
Who should be blamed?

# Blemished Sacrifices and declining standard of priests

<sup>6</sup> A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

<sup>7</sup> Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible.

<sup>8</sup> And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts.

# Quality of Sacrifices expected by God

**Leviticus 22:**<sup>19</sup> Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats. <sup>20</sup> But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. ... <sup>24</sup> Ye shall not offer unto the Lord that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make any offering thereof in your land.

**Deuteronomy 15:21** And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the Lord thy God.

**Unblemished sacrifices were a foreshadow of sinless Christ as the final and perfect sacrifice.**

God expects purity, holiness, and separation in sacrifices & worship

God cannot compromise with the given laws



# Failure & Ignorance of Priests

<sup>6</sup> A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

## MISSING IN WORSHIP: Honor & Fear of God (6)

- If God is our father, he must be honored (Ten commandments, #5)
- **Hebrews 12:9** Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Priests unaware that they were despising God ... wherein have we despised thy name? (6) wherein have we polluted thee?

# Failure & Ignorance of Priests

<sup>7</sup> Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible.

## Consequences of Missing Honor & Fear of God:

Blemished sacrifices (polluted sacrifice, 7)

Priests simply followed traditions with no true understanding or commitment.

**Isaiah 29:13** Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

# Would we offer polluted food to special guests?

<sup>8</sup> And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts.

We need to honor God by offering Him our very best!

If Priests have low standards and compromise, so will the people

## Contemptible table (7,12)

<sup>7</sup>Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible. <sup>12</sup>But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the Lord is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.

Worthless sacrifices leads to despising the Table of the Lord (altar) and disrespecting the Lord

# Who should be blamed?

Who is to be blamed?

Does blemished sacrifices show:

- ignorance of people?
- lack of standards of priests/people?
- unwillingness of priests to hold people to higher standard?
- all of the above?

# Response to Blemished Sacrifices (9-14)

Repentance of Worshippers

Suspension of Worship

Justice of God

# Repent

<sup>9</sup> And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the Lord of hosts.

How can the priests intercede if there is iniquity in their heart?

How can priests approach Holy God with defiled sacrifices?

How can people expect pardon for their sins by showing disrespect to God in their offerings?

**Isaiah 59:1-2** Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Bible offers hope to sinners:

**Restoration** possible through Recognition (of failures) and Repentance

# Suspend worship!

<sup>10</sup> Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

It is better to **shut down the temple operations** than to offer meaningless worship with blemished sacrifices!

God does not take pleasure in hypocrisy and traditions.

**ISAIAH 1:13** Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me



# Future Worship by All

<sup>11</sup>For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts.

- Diminished offerings do not diminish the greatness of God
- He will be exalted by all (including gentiles)  
Zechariah 14:9 And the Lord shall be king over all the earth:
- True worshippers will exalt Him and glorify Him throughout eternity
  - Incense replaces animal sacrifices
    - **Psalms 141:2** Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
    - **Revelation 8:3** And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

# Weariness in Worship (13)

<sup>13</sup>Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord.

Worshipping God should not become 'weariness'

Weariness bring compromises in our spiritual life

False worship will also bring weariness

God becomes weary of false worship

- **Isaiah 1:14** Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

# Justice of God: False worshippers are punished

<sup>14</sup> But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

While they have the best in stock, they offer unto God second best

God notices such deceptions, and they will be cursed for offering such blemished sacrifices.

We cannot deceive God with vain worship

He is a great King and deserves our best

## Failure of Aaron's sons punished

**Leviticus 10** And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. <sup>2</sup> And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

Continuing in sin leads to God's chastisement.

**God is just**

(Genesis 4)

<sup>3</sup> And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.<sup>4</sup> And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

<sup>5</sup> But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

**<sup>7</sup> If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?**

# Christ ... the perfect sacrifice

## Hebrews 10:11-14

<sup>11</sup> And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

<sup>12</sup> But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; <sup>13</sup> From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

<sup>14</sup> For **by one offering he hath perfected for ever** them that are sanctified.

**No more sacrifices needed after the cross!**



# Your reflection

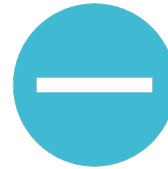
Are we guilty of offering Blemished Sacrifices?

What type of sacrifices does God expect?

Are we offering blemished sacrifices?



YES



NO



Don't know



**True  
Worshippers**  
(some qualities)

Are born-again believers

Worship the “exalted one” “King of Kings”

Worship with understanding

Worship based on experience

Worship in spirit and in truth

Worship at all times, in all seasons of life

Look forward to worship in Heaven

# What type of sacrifices does the Lord expect of us?

In NT, all believers are priests

## **Sacrifice our bodies as a living sacrifice**

- Romans 12:1 present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

## **Sacrifice that is costly**

- II Samuel 24:24 neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing.

## **Sacrifice of praise** (Hebrews 13:15-16)

- Hebrews 3:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. <sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- I Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ
- I Peter 2:9 that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

## **Sacrifice of gifts** (Philippians 4:18)

- Philippians 4:18 I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.

- **Sacrifice the best of our time | talents | treasures**

# Character of God

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God is Love  
(last week)

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God never changeth  
(last week)

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**God is Holy**

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