

Malachi 2

Lesson 3

Ice Breaker: *What has been one of the hardest things you have ever done? Or What are one or two things that you wish people would/could do for you to help you on your life journey?*

Read through all of Chapter 2- read it out loud as well to again hear how the priests/ people heard this.

V1 And--- so continuing **with the priests...** seems there are more issues for Malachi to speak about

V2- What are the priests wilfully NOT doing? (also Malachi 1:6)

Look up “take to heart”

Look up honor (Rev 5:13)

Honor originates in our hearts and refers to the value we personally place on something or someone. When we honor God, we are demonstrating the high regard we have for Him. We are reflecting His glory back as praise and worship. The Bible shows many ways to honor and glorify God. We show Him high regard and reflect His character by being sexually pure (1 Corinthians 6:18–20), by giving of our income (Proverbs 3:9), and by living lives devoted to Him (Romans 14:8). It is not enough to merely honor Him outwardly. God desires honor that comes from our hearts. “The Lord says, ‘These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me’” (Isaiah 29:13). When we delight in the Lord (Psalms 37:4), seek Him in everything we do (1 Chronicles 16:11; Isaiah 55:6), and make choices that reflect the place He has in our hearts, we bring Him the greatest honor. Got Questions

APP How do we show honor to other people? How does the world “honor” people?

2b. What **will** Yahweh then do? (think about what the word “will” means) (how many more curses do they need to learn)

2c. What are some of the curses listed here? **Deuteronomy 28:20 – (see list of curses 28:15-68)**

2d. What are the blessings that priests were able to give? Numbers 6:22-27

2e. What are they not “laying to heart” – the “it”? (see NLT)

V3 How will Yahweh punish them? What usually happened to the “dung” (Lev.16:27)

APP What is it that God truly desires from us in our offerings? 1 Sam. 15:22, Prov 21:3

APP What ways can how we live our lives affect others, including our children?

V4a Then.. What will they “**know**”(realize, etc.) from their punishment/curse?(**Nehemiah 13- this had been going on for awhile**)

APP Think of what they had been promised at their return in Jeremiah 33 and then to go so astray- priests and people. They had promised blessings in store. Yet their actions brought on the curses. But there is the new covenant we have... read below the hope we have in Christ!!

Did Israel experience the covenant curses laid out in Deuteronomy? Yes. Is this the same way God deals with us today? No. This change is not because God has changed. It is not as though the God of the Old Testament was a God of cursing instead of blessing. The difference between divine blessing on the plains of Moab and today is Jesus. In Christ, God established a new way of dealing with his people—a new door through which his people must walk to enter his blessing. The covenant curses for lawbreakers have been punished; Jesus Christ became a curse for us (Gal. 3:13), so that in him we might receive God’s new covenant blessings! Is there still the possibility of experiencing divine cursing? Yes. Those who reject the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus are still left under the crushing weight of sin, and are left to anticipate the assured judgement and curse that follows. *William R. Osborne* crossway.org/articles/3-questions-about-blessings-and-curse

Extra: [.gotquestions.org/blessing-and-cursing](http://gotquestions.org/blessing-and-cursing). Answers the question of why God used this system of blessing and cursing.

V4b-5 What was the covenant with Levi? What was the attitude of the priests? (Deut. 30:15-20

4/5b. How would you explain a “covenant of fear”?

“To fear the Lord is to live as if God exists and is who He says He is. It is to walk through life bowing to His kingship and remembering His gracious redemption. To fear the Lord means to yield to His will and seek to walk in His ways as our gracious deliverance.”

⁸ **At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord to stand before the Lord to minister to him and to bless in his name, to this day. Deut. 33:10**

V6-7 What was the role of the priests listed here and why would the people listen to them?

a.

b.

c.

d.

6/7b. Why should the people follow the priests? (Deut. 17:10-11)

V8 The famous BUT... what have they done instead? Zechariah 3:7

V9 What will be their consequences?

9b What would that mean for a priest/elder to show favouritism? James 2:1-10, 1 Tim. 5:21

APP How important is the role of our elders/pastors today. Titus 1:5-9- role of elders, James 3:1- role of teachers.

How can we as Christians be lead astray by whom we follow? How can we “protect” ourselves , be discerning and making sure we are following the **truth? We are responsible for knowing and following the truth** Eph 6:14, Col. 3:16, Phil 1:9, 2:27, James 1:5.

*** From verses 10-16- circle the word “Faithless”**

V10 (Malachi seems to change his tactic here- from confronting the people to pleading with them.) What is Malachi saying that “we” (who?) are doing?

10b. What covenant would he be referring to? (Ex 20-, Deut 4:31, 5:3,)

V11-12 What have the men of Israel been doing? What is the sin they are committing?(This seems to be referring to specific men who have and are doing this.)

11/12 b. What happens when they marry pagan women? Why is God so opposed to this? Ex 23:31-33, Deut 7:1-6.

The sanctuary of the Lord- not just the temple but that they were to be set apart-holy. By marrying pagan women who would keep their gods and turn them away from God. Think of Solomon- 1 Kings 11:1-8.

V13 What is the second thing they are doing? Ps. 66:18? 1 Peter 3:7

V14 What is God's accusation against these men of Judah?

They seem to be surprised that God knows their hearts -1 Sam 16:7, Isaiah 58:1-6 –as they come to worship. They were coming to worship defiantly rather than humbly and repentant of their sins.

14b. How does God view marriage? Gen 2:18, 21-25, 1 Cor 6:15-18, One Flesh Rev 21

V15 What is God seeking in marriage? Again think of Solomon

15b. What are the men to guard? Isa 26:9, Ps.32:2, Matt 15:16-20

V16 Notice the different ways verse 16 is translated

What does Malachi 2:16 mean?

ESV: "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

NIV: "The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

CSB: "If he hates and divorces his wife," says the Lord God of Israel, "he covers his garment with injustice," says the Lord of Armies. Therefore, watch yourselves carefully, and do not act treacherously.

NLT: 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.'

NKJV: "For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

Verse Commentary:

In the Old Testament, "covering someone with your garment" is a metaphor for protection. A classic example is Ezekiel 16:8, where God describes His love for Israel using the symbolism of a man and wife. As the protector and provider, men are supposed to "cover" their wives. Malachi's two-part criticism in this passage is that this is not happening. Israeli men are marrying pagan women (Malachi 2:11), and they are divorcing their Jewish wives in order to do it (Malachi 2:14). This is exactly the opposite of "protection." In fact, it is an act of spiritual violence.

Old Testament rules for divorce were never meant to imply God's approval. This is further supported by this verse's association of "faithlessness," and spiritual danger, with divorce. Rather, divorce laws were meant to reign in the impact of that sin (Matthew 19:7–9). This was especially meant to protect the rights of women, who in that culture were highly dependent on their husbands (and children) for support. biblerefer.com/Malachi/2/Malachi-2-16.html

16b. Then what does it mean to be "faithful"? gotquestions.org/Bible-faithfulness