

## Taking God's Love Seriously.

### Malachi 1:1-5 (NKJ)

**Malachi 1:1** The <sup>[a]</sup>burden of the word of the Lord to Israel <sup>[b]</sup>by Malachi. (NKJ)

#### 1) Taking God's Love Seriously.

**Malachi 1:2-3** "I have loved you," says the Lord. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the Lord. "Yet Jacob I have loved; <sup>3</sup>But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness." (NKJ)

**Malachi 1:4-5** Edom may say, "Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins." But this is what the Lord Almighty says: "They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>You will see it with your own eyes and say, 'Great is the Lord—even beyond the borders of Israel!' (NIV)

#### 2) Taking Worship Seriously.

**Malachi 1:6-8** "A son honors *his* father, And a servant *his* master. If then I am the Father, Where *is* My honor? And if I *am* a Master, Where *is* My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' <sup>7</sup>"You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is <sup>[a]</sup>contemptible.' <sup>8</sup>And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, *Is it* not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, *Is it* not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept <sup>[b]</sup>you favorably?" Says the Lord of hosts. (NKJ)

**Deuteronomy 15:21** But if there is a defect in it, *if it is* lame or blind *or has* any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the Lord your God. (NKJ)

**Malachi 1:9-10** "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. *While* this is being *done* by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the Lord of hosts. <sup>10</sup>"Who *is there* even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire *on* My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the Lord of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. (NKJ)

**Malachi 1:11-14** For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; In every place incense *shall be* offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the Lord of hosts. <sup>12</sup>"But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the <sup>[a]</sup>Lord is defiled; And its fruit, its food, *is* contemptible.' <sup>13</sup>You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the Lord of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the Lord. <sup>14</sup>"But cursed *be* the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is

blemished—For I *am* a great King,” Says the Lord of hosts, “And My name *is to be* feared among the nations. (NKJ)

**2 Samuel 24:20-25** When Araunah saw the king and his men coming toward him, he came and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. <sup>21</sup> “Why have you come, my lord the king?” Araunah asked. David replied, “I have come to buy your threshing floor and to build an altar to the Lord there, so that he will stop the plague.” <sup>22</sup> “Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish,” Araunah said to David. “Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and you can use the threshing boards and ox yokes for wood to build a fire on the altar. <sup>23</sup> I will give it all to you, Your Majesty, and may the Lord your God accept your sacrifice.” <sup>24</sup> But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.” So David paid him fifty pieces of silver<sup>[a]</sup> for the threshing floor and the oxen. <sup>25</sup> David built an altar there to the Lord and sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. And the Lord answered his prayer for the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped. (NLT)