



## **Malachi: Navigating a Breakdown**

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### **“Raising the Bar of Worship”**

### **3/12/23**

**Key Verses:** Malachi 1:6-10

**Key Thought:** God wants our best (not our leftovers)— *even our whole selves*— in order that we would then be fully able to receive Him.

#### **Points to Consider:**

- God was angry that His people were giving Him their leftovers instead of their best— in direct violation of the covenant (cf. Lev 22:17-22).
  - i. True worship always involves true sacrifice.
  - ii. God is angry because He cares so deeply.
  - iii. More than the outward action, God is concerned about the condition of the heart that produces the outward action.
- God prefers no worship to “worship” that dishonors Him. → It is better for us to be lost and to know it than to suppose that we are found when we are not.
- God wants our whole selves (cf. Rom 12:1)— not as a narcissist— but in order that we would then be fully able to receive Him. → Inadequate worship of God reveals that we are truly giving our hearts to something other than Him, which then becomes an obstacle to our ability to fully receive Him. (See Mark 10:17-22.)
- The Asbury Revival has been an excellent example of true worship that is able to receive the blessing of God, marked by: prevailing prayer, radical confession/repentance, complete surrender, immediate obedience, and deep humility.

#### **Discussion Prompts:**

- Why was God so angry with His people? Do you think that God still gets angry?
- How can no worship be better than false worship?
- Rate your worship from 1-10, with an explanation.
- Why does God want us to worship Him with our whole selves?
- What competes with God for your worship?
- What “mark” of true worship from the Asbury Revival do you feel is most needed in your life right now? What might that look like for you in the days to come?