



God's Rebuke:
Selective OBEDIENCE

John 14:21
Whoever has my commandments and keeps [obeys] them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

⁶“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ ⁷ By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’s table may be despised. ⁸ When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. ⁹ And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. ¹⁰ Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.

¹¹ For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. ¹² But you profane it when you say that the Lord’s table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. ¹³ But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD. ¹⁴ Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.

² “And now, O priests, this command is for you. ² If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. ³ Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. ⁴ So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. ⁵ My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name.

⁶ True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. ⁷ For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. ⁸ But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, ⁹ and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

Malachi—God's tough, unfailing love

Malachi 1:6-2:9

God's Rebuke: Selective OBEEDIENCE

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear?" says the **Lord of hosts** to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, "How have we despised your name?" By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, "How have we polluted you?" By saying that the Lord's table may be despised. "When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor?" says the **Lord of hosts**. "And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hands, will he show favor to any of you?" says the **Lord of hosts**. "On that time were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar: I have no pleasure in you, says the **Lord of hosts**, and I will not accept an offering from your hands. For the **ribon of the sun** to its setting my name will be great **among the nations**, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great **among the nations**, says the **Lord of hosts**. "But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit that is, its food may be despised. "But you say, "What a uselessness this is, and you snort at it, says the **Lord of hosts**. You bring what has been taken by violence or is little of sick, and thus you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hands?" says the **Lord**. "Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great **god**, says the **Lord of hosts**, and my name will be feared **among the nations**."

2 "And now, O priests, this command is for you. "If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the **Lord of hosts**, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to your heart. "Behold, I will rebuke your droppings, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. "So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the **Lord of hosts**. "My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear; and he feared me, he stood in awe of my name. "True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. "For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the **Lord of hosts**. But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the **Lord of hosts**, and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction."

God's Revelation: God of _____

God's Desire: _____ with Me—

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR TODAY'S TEACHING

- In Job 38-41, God reveals to Job who He is and who Job is not. In Job 42, Job responds to God's revelation. Read these chapters and meditate on how Job responds to God. How do you respond to who God really is?
- If this life truly is about relationship with God, what is one thing you can do this week to build your relationship with God? Share what you decide with someone and ask them to hold you accountable to it.

