

Sermon Discussion Questions:

What does God expect from those who represent Him?

Main Idea: God deserves and demands true and proper worship from those He saves, and like Levi we find a worshipful life and peace when we fear God and stand in awe of His name. Our God, being a good Father, lovingly corrects His children when they have improper responses to who He is and what He has done.

Launching Question: Why is the definition from the Worship Initiative helpful to us compared to how we normally think about worship? *Worship is an all-encompassing, daily lifestyle of devotion, surrender, and response to God rather than just a musical performance or a Sunday church service.*

Discussion Questions:

- Read Malachi 2:1-4, and 8-9. What specific charges to you see against the priests that can also be true of us if we are not watchful? What do you feel like you struggle with the most from these?
- What do these symptoms of an improper heart reveal about their lack of fear and awe of God?
 - What does a proper fear of God look like, and do we struggle with this today?
- What areas do you find hope in Malachi 2:1-9?
 - What does 2:4 reveal about God's ultimate purpose for lovingly correcting Israel?
 - How do the priests failings point us toward Jesus in 2:7? (*a better Messenger*)
- Israel's priests caused others to stumble because of their sin, what does this teach us about who we follow and who is "in our tribe?"
- How should the fact that God knows the heart behind or worship impact us before we study, pray, sing, or act?

Application Questions:

- How can we better seek to live in healthy fear and awe of God daily?
- The priests mistakenly elevated religious performance over private devotion. What does this teach us and how can we apply it to our lives?
- It was said, If we get worship right, we will get life right. What areas of your life are you not fully surrendered and devoted to Jesus, and how do we make changes today?

Prayer:

- Praise
 - Thank God for being a God who speaks
 - Thank Him for being a God who lovingly corrects, to bring reconciliation
- Confess for when: (*consider having 4 different people take 1*)
 - We do not listen to God (v2)
 - We do not have a heart for God's glory (v2)
 - We turn aside from God's ways (v8)
 - We show partiality in our obedience (v9)
- Ask God to purify our worship