

# Malachi 2:1-17

## “Spiritual Leaders and People”

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Intro.

**Subject: God's correction of His priests and people**

**Object: Be godly people and leaders**

#### I. God's correction of the priests [1-9]: The need for godly spiritual leaders

##### A. The problem [1-3]

**1. The call to repent: commandment [1]** NIV-admonition, aimed at priests (religious leaders), call to repent...God wants to bless not curse.

##### a. Failure to repent + glorify God will result in curses (consequences) [2]

v.2 **curse [3x] set your heart [2x]** repetition for emphasis. Priests job is ton encourage blessings not curses [Num. 6:24-26]. Blessings probably a reference to a good harvest for the people [3:9]. Tithes for priests provide sustenance.

**b. Failure to repent will result in removal [3]** Refuse [NIV-offal] internal waste of sacrificial animal. Generally carried out of the camp Here offense is priests and they are the one's which God will carry out of the camp.

**What are some things that godly leaders should be and do?** [leadership = influence]

##### B. The Pattern [4-6] God's desire for ministers

**Levi:** Levitical priesthood, Aaron was 1<sup>st</sup> H.P. of the tribe of Levi

**v.4** covenant [3x] part of the Old Testament covenant re the priesthood. God to provides for the Levites, and the Levites serve God [Num. 3:45-48;18; 21-24]

**Ex.32:36**-when Israel rebelled with the golden calf as the Law was being given to Moses at Mt.Sinai only the Levites remained faithful to God. God than consecrated the Levites to ministry as a reward [Dt. 10:8-9]. Priests were not fulfilling the requirements of the job per the agreement [Deut.33:8-11]

**v.5** Levi was reverent and stood in awe of God-respect

**1. What spiritual leaders are required to do [6]:** 3 aspects of their role

**a. Word: Law of truth,** God's word - Duty to proclaim the whole truth!

**b. Walk:** lifestyle of peace and equity – **No injustice:** right with God and man

**c. Witness:** encourage people to turn fro sin and live for God

cf. In Malachi's day priests were causing people to stumble [2:8]

**C. Purpose [v.7-9]** Priests are to teach the people about God, represent God to the people and the people to God [Lev. 10:8-11, Deut.17:9-11]. **Messenger of the Lord [7] malach**

**1. Draw people to God through teaching of the Scripture, ritual to reveal Messiah, a life that demonstrates the truth about the True and Living God**

#### II. God's correction of the people [10-17]: The need for godly spiritual people

##### A. Idolatry [10-12]

## 1. The problem(s) marrying unbelievers and adopting pagan beliefs (idolatry)

**Father** [10] reference to God the Father rather than to Abraham as father of the Jews

**v.11 Judah, Israel + Jerusalem:** the problem was widespread among the people

**abomination:** desecration, reserved for the worst offenses

**Daughter of a foreign God:** 1.marrying unbelievers, 2.adopting pagan beliefs-idolatry

**Ex. 34:11-16** God instructed the people not to intermarry with the pagans who inhabited the P.L. lest they worship foreign gods!

**v.12** problem of knowing how offensive this is to God, and still making offerings/sacrifice to God as if nothing is wrong.

**Neh.13:28** the High Priest's grandson married an unbeliever = contemporary barometer of the problem in the land as seen by the spiritual leaders coldness to God

**Solomon:** downfall re marrying multiple wives who worshipped foreign Gods

**Ahab** marries the wicked Jezebel and Baal worship is promoted in Israel

**Cf. David** despite the adultery with Bathsheba and, murder of Uriah, God still speaks favorably of David as a man after his own heart. Because David never worshiped foreign Gods [idolatry]

**2Cor. 6:14-16**

**What are ways a marriage relationship can reflect a person's relationship with God?**

### B. Infidelity [13-16]

#### 1. God is a witness to marriage covenant and how we treat our spouse [13-14]

**flood of tears** [13] prob tears of wives who were mistreated or were divorced

**For what reason?** [14] people argue we've done nothing wrong. Cf **God is witness:**

**a. Problem of leaving an older wife for a younger foreign woman: wife of your youth**

i. trade 40 for two 20's. **Prov. 5:18**-rejoice with the wife of your youth

ii. **treacherously** [14] reference to disregarding the feelings of a spouse [16]

b. Problem of divorce

#### 2. Five reasons not to divorce [14-16]

Jesus said that the reason for divorce is the hardness of our hearts [**Matt. 19:8**]

**a. Companion** [14] marriage is a partnership between friends [**Amos 3:3**]

i. Marriage is a picture of Jesus' re with His church [Jn. 15:15 we are his friends]

**b. Covenant** [14] marriage is a sacred covenant. [Katubah]

i. Unconditional contract which does not depend on the other's performance [**Gen.15**]

ii. Commitment to spouse is re commitment to Christ.

**c. Cleave** [15] husband and wife are one.

i. God's plan is one marriage till death parts or till the Lord returns [**Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:6**]

**d. Children** [15] God has brought husbands and wife together to bring forth godly offspring

i. **Gen. 1:28** God blessed Adam and Eve and said, "be fruitful and multiply..."

ii. Christian Faith is just one generation from extinction, our commission as parents is to prepare the next generation to receive the faith and than to pass the faith to the next generation

**e. Contempt** [v.16] **God hates divorce:** Strong indictment

i. **covers one's garment with violence:** tears apart families, scars children, harms faith

ii. **take heed not to deal treacherously** [4x 11, 14, 15,16]: solemn warning to honor spouse

iii. Primary problem of marriage is the attitude of approaching marriage to have our needs met rather than seeking to glorify God and serving spouse

### **C. Indifference [17]**

#### **1. God charges His people with indifference and they deny it**

a. Empty words and ritual without passion or love for God is hypocrisy

#### **2. God is accused of being indifferent and unjust, but it is His people who are guilty**

a. 2 specific charges: 1.all that do evil are good and pleasing to God; 2.where is the God of justice [If God is really involved in the affairs of men, why are the wicked blessed?]