

A CALL
FROM
CORRUPTION

MALACHI 2:1-9

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1 And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

3 Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it.

4 And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 2:1-9 - continued

5 My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.

6 The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

7 For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 2:1-9 - continued

8 But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

9 Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law.

I. God's Disdain for a Corrupted Priesthood

(vv 1-4)

A. Corruption often begins when listening ends (vv 1-2)

- 1. Failure to hear is a problem of the heart**
- 2. Failure to hear diminishes God's glory**
- 3. Failure to hear denies God's blessings**

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

I. God's Disdain for a Corrupted Priesthood

(vv 1-4)

B. Corruption brings a price to be paid (v 3)

1. God's ear will be turned away

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

2. Others may pay the price

Isaiah 30:17

One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill.

I. God's Disdain for a Corrupted Priesthood

(vv 1-4)

C. Corruption brings exposure to God's holiness

1. Corruption will bring extreme judgment

Leviticus 22:9

They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it: I the LORD do sanctify them.

2. Corruption will cost you your place of ministry

3. Corruption will be overcome by God's plan

II. God's Delight in a Righteous Priesthood (vv 5-7)

A. A righteous priest will have the right view of God (v 5)

1. A realization of who is in charge

2. A realization of proper fear

Psalm 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

3. A realization of proper reverence

II. God's Delight in a Righteous Priesthood (vv 5-7)

B. A righteous priest will have a proper testimony (v 6)

- 1. A testimony of truth**
- 2. A testimony of right speech**
- 3. A testimony of influence**

2 Corinthians 1:12

For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

II. God's Delight in a Righteous Priesthood (vv 5-7)

C. A righteous priest will have knowledge (v 7)

1. A working knowledge of God's Word

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2. A willingness to share His knowledge

Acts 18:26

And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

3. A worthwhile call

III. God's Determination Concerning Priestly Corruption (vv 8-9)

A. God's judgment resulted from a vast departure (v 8)

1. A departure from their call

2. A departure from their obedience

**B. God's judgment resulted from misrepresenting His
Word (v 9)**

1. God's Word is fixed

2. God's Word is to be proclaimed as is

James 3:17

**But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then
peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy
and good fruits, without partiality, and without
hypocrisy.**

III. God's Determination Concerning Priestly Corruption (vv 8-9)

C. God's judgment resulted in a lost testimony

**1. But a testimony can be regained through
humbleness**

James 4:6

**But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God
resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

**2. But a testimony can be regained through
repentance**

Revelation 3:19

**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous
therefore, and repent.**

III. God's Determination Concerning Priestly Corruption (vv 8-9)

**C. God's judgment resulted in a lost testimony –
continued**

3. But a testimony can be regained by grace

2 Corinthians 9:8

**And God is able to make all grace abound toward you;
that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may
abound to every good work:**

Heed The Call To Grace

2 Timothy 1:9

**Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling,
not according to our works, but according to his own
purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus
before the world began,**